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THE TIMES

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50P

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STARTING TODAY

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Legal aid scheme to be scrapped

Justice for the middle class in law reform

BY FRANCES GIBB AND NICHOLAS WOOD

MIDDLE-CLASS people who cannot afford to go to law should gain access to the courts under sweeping changes to the legal system to be announced by the Government this month.

Ministers are to scrap the legal aid scheme for most civil disputes — saving the taxpayer up to £800 million — and embrace "no win, no fee" litigation for all civil claims for money or damages.

The system will cover all kinds of cases, including accident claims, consumer disputes, rows with neighbours and attempts to recover money lost in business deals.

The Government is also to act to cut delays and costs in civil cases. Under proposals put forward by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, cases involving up to £10,000 — the vast majority — will be handled by a new fast-track procedure with a strict timetable and with lawyers bound by fixed costs.

The reforms are designed to ensure that people with incomes of between £25,000 and £50,000 can pursue legal actions without the fear of being landed with crippling legal bills. Geoff Hoon, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said that the middle classes were excluded from the courts because they were either too rich for legal aid or too poor to afford lawyers. "They are in effect deprived of the opportunity to go to court and conditional fees open up the possibility of going to court for the majority of people."

The expansion of "no win, no fee" work — now confined to personal injury claims, insolvency and human rights cases — would be coupled with a a system of fixed legal costs quoted in advance. Mr Hoon said. "Clearly they will be in a better position. All the horror stories of litigation are people thinking costs would be X and they turn out to be Y."

There will be fixed fees in criminal work, too, to curb what ministers see as "fat cat" legal aid fees in expensive criminal cases. Mr Hoon said that already prosecution work was already "out out to tender" in big fraud trials and the fees were fixed. "I don't see why the same should not apply for defence work."

The package of changes will be announced by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg on October 18 at the Law Society conference in Cardiff. He will also approve Lord Woolf's proposal that judges should be allowed to set timetables for cases and impose penalties for delay. Lord Irvine received a report from the former Treasury official Sir Peter Middleton on the viability of Lord Woolf's proposals and civil legal aid last week and a source commented: "The message is positive. Lord Woolf will not be disappointed."

Under the shake-up, legal aid will be retained for areas of work such as childcare or crime where people are not seeking to recover money.

For cases not covered by "no win, no fee" schemes, a new community legal service — which may include a public defender scheme for criminal work — will be set up. Law firms and advice agencies will enter into contracts with the Legal Aid Board to provide publicly-funded work.

Under contingency schemes, lawyers take no fee if they lose but can charge up to double their normal fee if they win — although most increase their charges by 25 per cent. Litigants will, however, have to take out insurance in case they have to pay their opponent's costs, and in areas such as medical negligence where the outcome is hard to predict, this could be costly.

Fears have been raised that lawyers will take only "surefire" cases and the Bar is concerned about lawyers having a stake in the outcome of litigation. It would rather see a self-financing Contingency Legal Aid Fund, paid for by a slice of the damages from each successful plaintiff supported by the fund.

Ministers have not ruled that out and are ordering further research on its likely start-up costs. But such a fund is not likely to be in the first round of reform. Ministers favour pressing ahead with many of the reforms which do not need legislation. But there may be further consultation on some of the more controversial aspects.

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PETER NICHOLLS

Trevor Rees-Jones walks to a helicopter in Paris to return home yesterday

'Sad' Spencer sees lawyers over Morton book reissue

BY BEN MACINTYRE, TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND CAROL MIDGLEY

EARL SPENCER publicly condemned Andrew Morton's revised biography of Diana, Princess of Wales last night and said he and his family were "very distressed and saddened" by its publication.

As Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the Paris car crash which killed the Princess, left hospital and returned home to Britain, a spokeswoman for the earl criticised the book, which contains transcripts of tape recordings which the Princess made about her marriage.

The Spencer family spoke out after consulting lawyers with a view to blocking the book's sales. They were saddened by transcripts in which in her own words, the Princess says she felt she was like a lamb to the slaughter on her wedding day and had a bad fit of bulimia the night before.

The Princess told how she confronted Camilla Parker Bowles and said she knew exactly what was going on, saying: "I was not born yesterday." Of the future, she said she believed she would marry someone with foreign blood in him.

Yesterday, Mr Rees-Jones, 29, his left arm in plaster and with visible scarring and swelling to his face, was discharged from La Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris, where he has been for 33 days. Doctors have been amazed at the speed of his recovery after ten hours of reconstructive surgery to his jaw, although he can remember nothing of the accident.

He was accompanied by his parents, Jill and Ernie, from Oswestry, Shropshire, who stayed by the former paratrooper's bedside throughout his recovery. Mohamed Al Fayed refused to make any comment on his employee's future, issuing a statement reading: "Trevor Rees-Jones is recuperating from grave injuries. He needs peace and quiet. We do not propose to comment on his whereabouts or movements."

Dodi Fayed, Mr Al Fayed's son and close friend of the Princess, was also killed in the crash with the driver of the car, Henri Paul.

Mr Rees-Jones walked unaided to a Harrods' helicopter belonging to Mr Al Fayed at a heliport in the suburbs of Paris and flew to London. He is expected to require further hospital treatment, but last night his destination in Britain was unclear.

Mr Morton dismissed criticism of his book, *Diana: Her True Story — In Her Own Words*, which now includes an 18,000-word transcription of tape recordings by the Princess. "I owe it to her memory to write her words," he said. "I am very proud to have been her biographer. I am very proud that she chose me to tell her story.

"I think I have behaved extremely honourably throughout this episode."

The Princess's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, who are the

Continued on page 2, col 5

Book sales begin, page 8

Treasury fury at Mandelson euro remarks

BY JANET BUSH AND ANDREW PIERCE

PETER MANDELSON was slapped down by Treasury officials yesterday after adding another confusing twist to the debate about the Government's policy on a European single currency.

The Minister without Portfolio sent the City into another *frenzied* bout of buying after telling Irish radio that Britain had not ruled out joining

Continued on page 2, col 1

Share record, page 33

Hague opponent barred

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A YORKSHIRE multimillionaire, who has launched a campaign against the Tory ballot to endorse William Hague's leadership, has been barred from attending next week's party conference.

Dr Peter Gregory, who earned £10.5 million from the sale of a family business last year, has invested £250,000 in the Conservative Democratic Movement, which he set up to challenge the ballot of party members that attracted only a 35 per cent turnout.

Dr Gregory, 41, is offering to fund the creation of a centralised party membership list and to hold a new vote independent of Conservative Central Office.

The result of the ballot will be announced by Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, on Tuesday at the opening of the Blackpool conference. Advertisements condemning it as a flawed process will be taken out by Dr Gregory in national newspapers on the same day.

The revenge of the party high command has been swift. Dr Gregory, a party member for seven years who is a treasurer of a branch of Skipton Conservatives, has been denied a pass for the party conference. However, he plans to arrive at Blackpool on Monday and said last night: "They cannot deny me access to fringe events."

The campaign received a boost last night with the disclosure that John Wilkinson, the Tory MP for Ruislip and Northwood, has agreed to be patron of the organisation.

Dr Gregory said he had decided to use his own money because he cared passionately about the Conservative Party. "I love the party. I am fighting for its soul."

Tory turmoil, pages 14 and 15

Assisi is hit by fresh earthquake

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ASSISI

A FRESH earthquake struck Italy yesterday, causing further damage to the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi and creating widespread panic.

A cloud of dust emerged from the basilica's huge main doors, but friars said it was not clear whether the frescoes had suffered any further damage.

The earthquake measured 5.1 on the Richter scale.

Art plunder, pages 10 and 11

"Next time we go out let's ask if we can borrow the nanny's car"

BMW is *de rigueur* in the nanny state

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

PROFESSIONAL couples are facing an outbreak of "nanny gazumping" as a surge in demand allows experienced women to play families off against each other to win pay and perks never dreamt of by Mary Poppins.

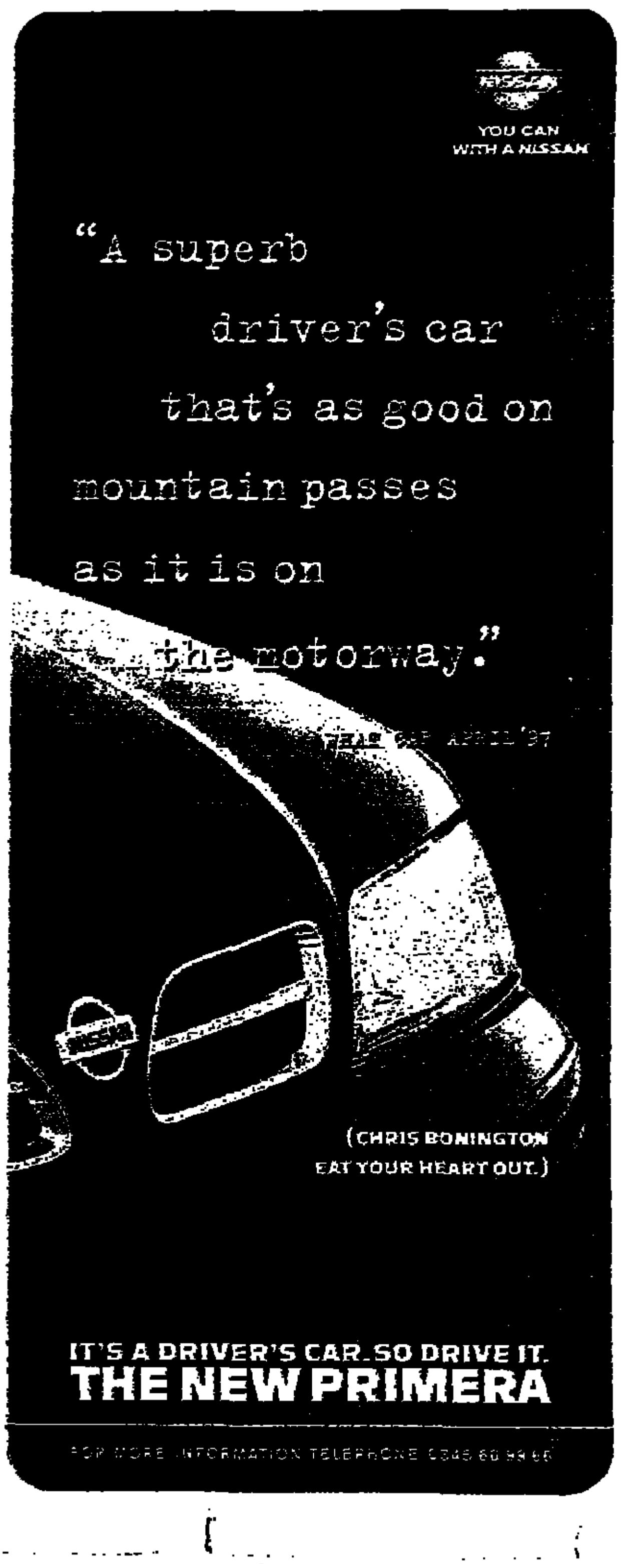
Average pay for a five-in nanny has risen by more than 20 per cent in the past year, while sole use of a BMW and a mobile phone are common demands in a booming labour market fuelled by record numbers of women returning to work after childbirth.

Samantha Franey, who runs the Dulwich Nanny Agency in southeast London, said that it was common for two or more families to enter into a bidding war. "We have had two cases this week where people who weren't intending to offer a car as part of the job decided to do so in order to get the girl they wanted," she said. One family was offering £300 a week net, plus a mobile phone and use of their country house.

Dale Headington, of Brompton Nannies in central London, said that at the top of the scale, daily nannies could earn up to £25,000 a year gross, plus a car. And demand was such that they could virtually walk into a new job whenever they wanted.

Emma Harrold, 25, who has seven years' experience, is a typical beneficiary. She was recently offered two jobs, one with a car and one without. She was about to take the job with the car, when the other family raised their offer and promised to buy her a Volkswagen Golf.

She said: "Most nannies have a short shelf-life. They work long hours and by the time they get to their late 20s, they want to do something else or they have their own children. This means that, although there are lots of newly qualified girls, there are not that many with a lot of experience."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Mandelson: gaffe

Minister rebuffed

Continued from page 1

economic and monetary union in the first wave although he said that there were huge obstacles to be overcome.

Shares and government bonds soared after his comments and then, just as suddenly reversed direction when a Treasury spokesman said policy was unchanged and that British membership was unlikely in 1999, the scheduled start of EMU.

Leading figures in the City were close to despair after Mr Mandelson's intervention in what one called a "saga of leak, comment and denial which is rapidly becoming a farce".

Richard Jeffrey, group economist at Charterhouse, a merchant bank, said: "The Government's comments on EMU are extremely unhelpful. They are actually complicating the management of the economy."

One government bond market source said: "The risk is that, if the markets start to factor in erratic political announcements, the Government will end up paying more to service the national debt."

Treasury officials were furious. One said: "It is a gaffe. Ministers should not be talking about EMU on foreign programmes. We did not know anything about it until the markets reacted.

"What he said was literally true in that we have not ruled out entry. But he was off-message in tone and sentiment by not stressing that entry is highly unlikely."

Yes Tony, no Tony, three bags full ...

MATTHEW PARRIS

CONFERENCE SKETCH

TO LIFT the hearts of Labour delegates departing Brighton yesterday, a Worthing school choir sang *The Red Flag*. The effect was unreal, like asking the Cuban State Chorus to perform *Tomorrow Belongs to Me*. It's an open question whether the red flag has tamed Worthing — or Worthing tamed the red flag.

A sullen and dwindling minority of the Labour Party has seemed uncertain of the answer, this past week. For those still a little shaky in their new Labour faith, I have spent time studying the speeches which draw approving glances from the leadership.

Let me take newcomers to the new Britain through the paces. Your speech should start on a note of dignified joy — but not, mark you, triumphalism. I suggest "Well, we made it!" or "What a difference a year makes!" Move quickly to an approving reference to the leadership — "As Tony reminded us on Tuesday, we must not be complacent" has proved popular.

Remember that Tony does not say things; he reminds us, or tells us. This must (an absolute must) be made *before* any approval is indicated for anyone else in the party, particularly Robin Cook. Clare Short, whose "As Robin said ... " came before she mentioned Tony, should note this. Ministers, in particular, should now offer a small anecdote about their first days, tending towards the smug rather than the risqué. A reliable technique is to invite favourable comparison with one's slack Tory predecessor — civil servants shocked when new minister asks for weekend reading, for instance.

Next should come a letter, or a child, or — best of all — a letter from a child. Thus: "Instead of mystifying you with jargon, let me read you a letter sent to me last Monday by Katie in Swindon." The letter can be total garbage, but do be ready to produce a real Katie for the tabloids.

Now for the main body of your speech. A simple rule should guide you here. It matters not at all what you say so long as it is absolutely vacuous, and contains a large number of the buzzwords and on-message phrases which I have inserted into a text of appropriate banality in the notes which follow: "Baa, baa black sheep, as Tony reminded us on Tuesday. Have you any wool for the many, not the few? Yes, sir, yes, sir, hope not fear. And we have already made a start. In just five months, compassion not despair, open, inclusive and democratic, duties not rights, three bags full.

"It is time to do, and we are doing, one for the master and one for the dame, and hard choices for the little boy who lives down the lane. Last week I visited little Miss Muffet, who sat on a tuffet, and next year we will give a voice to London. But we must not be complacent, eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider. Tough decisions. Compassion with a hard edge. The people of Scotland and Wales have already shown the way, and sat down beside her, and frightened Miss Muffet away, towards a second term.

"A nation with new confidence. New hope. New Labour. New Britain. A decent society. A beacon to the world. A new society. Decent Labour. Decent Britain. Decent new beacon. New, decent, hopeful beacon with Labour confidence in a world society. Action not words. Our pledge to the people: *Down with Indonesia! Down* with the House of Lords! Down with spiders!

"Thank you, as Miss Muffet reminded us on Tuesday."

CHRIS HARRIS

Prescott looks to second victory

By Nicholas Watt and Philip Webster

JOHN PRESCOTT wound up Labour's victory conference yesterday with a rallying cry to the party to secure a record-breaking two full terms in office.

In a rousing speech at the end of Labour's first conference in office for 19 years, the Deputy Prime Minister told delegates that tough challenges lay ahead: "Think about the hard choices of Government, not merely the easy words of Opposition."

His blunt warning came at the end of a vintage knockabout Prescott performance in which he recalled Labour's landslide general election victory and derided the Conservatives. Activists cheered and roared *with laughter as* Mr Prescott used an encounter with a voter during the campaign to illustrate the wonders of a Labour Government.

"During the election a Liverpool guy came up to me and said: 'Hey, John, you've got to win for us this time, lad — I've never had sex under a Labour Government.'" Mr Prescott added: "And if you're watching, I hope our first 100 days were good for you, too."

Teasing the Prime Minister, Mr Prescott confided: "Tony tells us we must not be complacent or triumphalist. But he's allowed me to say, as a special dispensation for today's wind-up speech: 'I'm reasonably chuffed at the victory.'" As the conference applauded his joke at the expense of Mr Blair, Mr Prescott *added: "He can be a miserable* beggar sometimes."

Mr Prescott ridiculed William Hague, the Tory leader, for wearing a baseball cap and dismissed the ballot being held by the Conservatives to *endorse his leadership. Holding* up a copy of the ballot paper, Mr Prescott said: "He's forgotten that in a leadership election you're supposed to have an opponent. But William is running against Nobody. It could be quite a close thing. But either way, let's face it, Nobody is bound to win."

Mr Prescott said that Mr Hague and Lord Parkinson, the Conservative chairman, would have a miserable time trying to revive their fortunes at next week's Tory conference. "The Tory party's like a *wonky supermarket trolley. It* pulls to the left, it pulls to the right, but you just can't get it to go forward."

Mr Prescott warned delegates, however, that while it was easy to treat the Conservatives as a joke, Labour should learn from the party's election defeat: "if you let your grassroots wither, all the photo-calls and soundbites in the world cannot save you".

Mr Prescott was joined on the platform at Brighton by Mr Blair and their wives for a standing ovation. A choir sang *Labour's pop anthem Things Can Only Get Better*, in gospel-music style, and *The Red Flag*.

In a series of interviews yesterday, Mr Blair hinted that extra money could be found for the health service if a crisis developed this winter. He said: "We are totally committed to the NHS and will do whatever we can to overcome the problems that we inherited." Pressed on whether he was ruling out new money this year, he said: "We're watching very closely *the situation.*" Asked later how the Government could ensure the NHS got through the next few months, he replied: "We have got to make sure that we do."

Commenting on a report in *The Times* that people could be required to contribute to a second pension, Mr Blair said: "People are going to want to provide more themselves. We recognise people are going to live longer, people want a better standard of living as pensioners, and we have got to try and provide that...

"The state is not going to be able to do the lot."

Jonathan Sacks .... page 22
Leading article page23
Letters .... page 23
Cartoon ... Weekend, page 30

Tony and Cherie Blair join John and Pauline Prescott after Mr Prescott's closing to the Labour conference

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lurgan murder charge man freed

A republican charged with the murder of two police officers in Lurgan, Co Armagh in June was freed yesterday after the *credibility of the prosecution's* chief witness was called into question.

It is the second time 29-year-old Colin Duffy has been released after the collapse of a murder *charge against him.* In 1985 he was given a life sentence for the murder of a loyalist, but was released on appeal.

Ford strike

Production of Fiesta cars at Ford's plant in Dagenham, Essex, was halted yesterday because of a strike by workers over pay. The company has *offered its production* workers a 2.75 per cent rise this year and next. Further talks will be held next month.

CS review

The Metropolitan Police is to review the use of CS spray on suspects after an inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing on a man who died in custody after it was used on him. The force said it deeply regretted the distress caused to the family of Ibrahima Sey.

'Mad cow' plea

Henry Carey, whose wife, Susan, 36, died from the human version of the "mad cow" brain disease, called for a government-backed public inquiry and compensation for families who have lost relatives after an inquest verdict of misadventure in Maidstone, Kent.

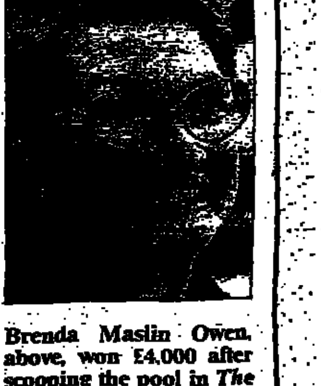
Best of British

Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, is cooking for Britain tonight on the stoves at the residence of the British Ambassador in Paris, Sir Michael Jay. She will present an *Evénement gastronomique* of British cuisine in connection with a design exhibition.

Breech birth

***Marks & Spencer* has withdrawn thousands of greetings cards showing Botticelli's Renaissance masterpiece *The Birth of Venus* after the picture was reproduced the wrong way round because of a printing error. One art expert accused the chain of "rape".**

Portfolio win



Brenda Maslin Owen, above, won £4,000 after scooping the pool in *The Times* Portfolio Games. Mrs Maslin Owen, 62, a retired bank employee of Portway Village, South Glamorgan, South Wales, was the sole winner in this week's competition.

For further information, call 0800 834865

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Assembly selection rules to change

RON DAVIES, the Welsh Secretary, shocked the Labour hierarchy yesterday by promising to change the party's rules on candidate selection for the Welsh assembly (Polly Newton writes).

He made clear that the regulation which requires candidates to be Labour Party members of at least two years' standing would not apply to those seeking election to the assembly.

Mr Davies told the Labour conference that he wanted candidates to be "the very brightest and best" in Wales. Although he stopped short of promising to waive the two-year rule, a source close to him said after the speech that that was the intention.

The Labour leadership was initially said to be bewildered by his comments. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, *had not been informed of Mr* Davies's plans. However, a Labour Party source said later that a revision of the rules was being considered. No change was planned in Scotland.

Banks: apologised

Banks wins backing of leadership

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, was safe in his job, Tony Blair confirmed yesterday. The Prime Minister said at the end of the conference that Mr Banks had apologised for making an offensive remark about William Hague and that the matter *was closed. Asked how close* he had come to dismissing Mr Banks, he replied: "I didn't. It was an unfortunate remark. He has made a very full apology for it."

Blair keen to renew ties with Yeltsin

TONY BLAIR arrives in Moscow tomorrow on his first visit to Russia as Prime Minister (Richard Beeston writes). His mission is to begin building close personal relations with President Yeltsin.

After a period that has seen reduced contacts between Downing Street and the Kremlin, the Prime Minister is determined to forge a lasting relationship with the Russian leader, who has at least three more years in power.

Russians generally value personal ties and Mr Yeltsin places great importance on his close relationships with world leaders, particularly Chancellor Kohl, President Chirac and President Clinton. "This is something we have neglected but intend to put right," a diplomatic source said.

Most of the Mr Blair's hectic series of meetings will take *place on Monday when he* meets Mr Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and his powerful reformist deputies, Anatoli Chubais and Boris Nemtsov.

Diana book

Continued from page 1

executors of her will, issued a statement, but legal action did not materialise yesterday. However, representatives of CMG Worldwide, which specialises in protecting, licensing and marketing hundreds of famous names, will travel to *London* next week to meet Anthony Julius, the solicitor who handles the Princess's estate.

Legal argument is thought to centre on the ownership of tape recordings made by the Princess and passed to Mr Morton.

The company's chief executive officer, Mark Roesler, said the estate of the Princess should waste no more time in copyrighting her name, image and likeness, in order to guard against "vulgar commercialism". Time, he stressed, was "of the essence for the estate".

"After Diana's death, there was a lot of exploitation going on very quickly. It became very obvious that something is going to need *to be done* to control any further unauthorised exploitation."

With the book now on sale, the Spencer's lawyers are thought to be concerned that Mr Morton could seek to broadcast the tapes. The millionaire author, a former *Daily Star* journalist, said he did not think the executors had a case against the revised book.

"There are no legal grounds at all. A lot of the material has already been published," he said. Mr Morton said he had supplied the tapes and they were his property and copyright. "She co-operated fully throughout this exercise. She spoke on tape. It's *her voice. It* is a seamless transcript of what she had to say. These tapes are my copyright. They are physically my property."

Book sales begin, page 8

Patten refused pleas to return

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR pleaded with Chris Patten to return early from his post as Governor of Hong Kong to try to bolster his battered authority in the parliamentary Tory party, it has emerged.

Some of Mr Major's closest advisers also tried in vain to persuade Mr Patten to come back to try to take the pressure off his leadership. The secret offer involved a seat in the House of Lords and a senior ministerial post.

But Mr Patten declined to *come back in Mr Major's* darkest hours and, instead, stayed on in Hong Kong to complete his mission to ensure an orderly handover to China.

Mr Patten makes the disclosure in Channel 4's *Bye Bye Blues*, the second part of which is shown tomorrow.

"I was asked from time to time whether I would consider resuming a career in British politics. I think he [Major] would have liked it if I had been around to take some of the heat and the pressure off *him," he says.*

Mr Patten says he was offered a peerage as a reward for helping to mastermind the Tory election victory in 1992 — in which he lost his seat — but he opted instead to go to Hong *Kong. The disclosure that he* has repeatedly rejected a seat in the Lords will fuel speculation that he has not ruled out a return to the Commons.

Tories in tur--oil, pages 14, 15

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Opportunity knocks for doormen

A boycott of TV commercials by actors is forcing advertising agencies to audition their own staff, writes **Dominic Kennedy**

ADVERTISING agencies are holding talent contests among their own staff as they struggle to beat an actors' boycott which threatens television commercials in the run-up to Christmas.

Stars including John Hurt and Nigel Davenport are backing the Equity dispute after employers asked actors, who can earn a six-figure sum for a morning's work, to take a two-thirds pay cut in their repeat fees for voice-overs.

Advertising executives determined to break the union are planning to recruit more child stars, make advertisements abroad, show repeats and replace actors with animated characters.

The boycott, which began a week ago, is threatening to cripple the £490 million-a-year industry at its busiest time. Advertising bosses appear to have misjudged the mood of actors, having hoped to drive a wedge between ordinary Equity members and the "fat cats" who earn fortunes for a few hours in the studio.

But household names appear to be showing solidarity and have told their agents not accept any bookings. Chris Tarrant, the disc jockey, who is believed to be the highest paid voice-over artist, has been been asked by Equity to join the action.

The stakes are high for the most sought after voices. Miranda Richardson is believed to have secured a £110,000 deal with British Airways for a new commercial before the dispute.

The boycott will have a significant impact on the advertisements which viewers see in the coming months. It will create hardship for actors and directors, who rely on lucrative advertising work to fill in periods of unemployment between stage and screen work. A top-of-the-bill actor in the theatre earns about £500 a week.

Chris Tarrant has been asked to join the boycott

Ready to return: the Sugar Puffs Honey Monster

The disruption is supported by musicians and stunt artists. Disc jockeys, models and journalists who star in advertisements are being asked to back the action, as their royalties would also be affected if Equity loses.

Advertising executives are digging in for a long campaign. They are trying to break the strike by inviting the secretaries and doormen who work in their own offices to show off their acting and singing talents in casting sessions.

They are also approaching drama schools, offering hard-up students the chance to earn up to £1,000 for a single voiceover.

Scripts are being hastily rewritten. A glut of pre-Christmas advertisements starring cute, pre-pubescent children is being predicted because under-14s cannot join Equity and are free to ignore the dispute.

There will be a plethora of repeats. Old favourites such as the "For Mash Get Smash" spacemen, the "Shake 'n' Vac" housewife, the Sugar Puffs Honey Monster, the Milk Tray suitor and the Hovis schoolboy may be brought out of retirement.

The Nimble girl's hot air balloon could fly again and even the man from Del Monte may be given the chance to say a final "Yes".

Old advertisements could only be shown, however, if royalty agreements were updated before last Friday. The dispute is over the deal between employers and Equity which governs payment for voiceovers.

Experienced actors can spend as little as ten minutes recording the script of an advert, perhaps just a brief slogan or an exclamation of delight. For that, the typical payment is £100 an hour. The employers offered to increase the minimum studio fee from £80 to £125.

The serious money, though, is in the repeat fees paid each time the advertisement is played.

Actors were asked to accept a change in the complex formula, based on numbers of viewers, which would have reduced their typical campaign earnings from £3,000 to £1,000. Since May, Equity has refused to accept voiceover contracts on the new terms. The dispute was hugely extended last Friday with a boycott of all television commercials.

NEIL MUNNS/PA

Miranda Richardson is thought to have secured a £110,000 deal with British Airways before the pay dispute arose

Advertising agencies made a last-minute dash to sign up actors before the midnight deadline, sometimes without even having scripts for them to perform.

"It was like the Harrods sale," said Paul De Freitas, a voiceover casting specialist. "One agent made 20 deals last Thursday alone." Since then, their phones have been mostly silent.

The only callers have been advertising agencies from the Netherlands, Scandinavia and France, eager to provide work for the most experienced British actors.

The most desperate union-busting ploy is to fly to Cape Town to film advertisements using local talent, then dub them with English voices. A creative executive in one of the leading London advertising agencies said: "You can't sell anything with a South African accent."

PC led wife to steal £400,000 from law firm

By Peter Foster

A SOLICITOR'S clerk siphoned off more than £400,000 from her employers to fund her policeman husband's passion for fast cars, boats and other luxuries, a disciplinary tribunal was told yesterday.

Sam Holland, a legal cashier, took the money over a number of years after pressure from her husband Stuart.

Jon Goodwin, for the Law Society, told the Solicitor's Disciplinary Tribunal that Holland, of Crawley Down, West Sussex, was caught in March after irregularities were discovered. Accountants were called in who "uncovered a current cash shortfall of £197,000 and it was revealed that a staggering £425,000 had been withdrawn from the client and office account over many years." Mr Goodwin said.

The tribunal was told how Holland, who is now divorced, was terrorised into taking the money from Hartwig solicitors of Knightsbridge, West London. John Joseph, for Mrs Holland, said Mr Holland, a police constable at East Grinstead, had put his wife under a "virtual reign of terror" and had taken just about everything apart from the house after their divorce.

Mr Holland was sacked from the police after being accused of conspiracy to obtain £68,000 worth of marine equipment by deception and was now serving a 30-month sentence, he added. Mr Joseph said his client had confessed everything after making a genuine suicide attempt.

He said Holland was now working as a delivery driver and earning between £800 and £1,000 a month, far less than she earned as a solicitor's clerk.

In mitigation, Mr Joseph added that Mrs Holland had now sold her home, repaid about £60,000, and over the years she had been doing her best to repay the rest. He added: "Throughout this time she was living in constant fear of being found out and she is, at best, a very nervous person. This whole business has ruined her life. She is very apologetic."

After the hearing Hans Hartwig, who founded Hartwig solicitors in 1960, said he had called in the Law Society immediately after an internal investigation revealed Holland's fraud. He added that there had been no hint that she was financing a life of luxury by stealing from his company: "She seemed to live a very moderate lifestyle," he said, "there was no evidence of the high life. As far as we knew she didn't have anything else conspicuous apart from a fairly decent sports car."

Mr Hartwig added that none of his clients would suffer from the fraud which was covered by insurance. Barrie Marsh, chairman of the tribunal, banned Mrs Holland from working with any legal practice without the permission in writing of the Law Society.

Virgin Radio has Evans for breakfast

By A Staff Reporter

CHRIS EVANS is returning to breakfast radio with his own brand of mayhem, nine months after he left Radio 1. The disc jockey is to resurrect his crash-bang formula on the rival Virgin Radio.

It was announced yesterday that he will start on October 13, the same day as the new breakfast voices of the BBC, Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening.

Evans has reassembled the studio team with whom he performed and partied at the BBC. His gang's hangovers were always as much a part of his show as his jokes.

Evans, 31, has been in secret talks with Richard Branson, the Virgin chief, almost since leaving Radio 1. His Ginger Productions company clinched the deal for a limited ten-week run at Virgin. The programme will run from 7am to 10am, Monday to Thursday.

Evans: back on the morning airwaves

His arrival unceremoniously dumped Virgin's award-winning breakfast DJs, Russ 'n' Jono, who were given the news at the end of their breakfast stint yesterday. "They were gutted," one source said. John Noel, agent for Jonathan Coleman, said: "Obviously he's sad. They haven't been offered anything else by Virgin." A stand-in will present the show next week.

Russ 'n' Jono beat Evans to the prestigious Sony Award for best breakfast show last year — a defeat that left Evans so angry that he refused to pick up the award he did win.

It is believed that Virgin will pay in line with the rumoured £1.3 million a year that Evans cost Radio 1 — taking into account the limited run and four-day week. "It might be less. And any sum will be for Ginger Productions to make the show, not for Chris to put in his pocket," his spokesman said.

Evans left Radio 1 in January this year when Matthew Bannister, the controller, turned down his demand for Fridays off to prepare his Channel 4 show, *TFI Friday*. Mark Radcliffe and Mark Riley took over, but have now been shunted aside by Ball and Greening.

Radio and TV, Vision section

Army in operation clean sweep

Michael Hornsby reports on a campaign to keep rural Britain tidy

THE Army was called in yesterday to launch a campaign to rid rural towns and the countryside of rubbish by the year 2000.

Students, scouts, police officers and other groups will be taking part in clean-up operations throughout East Anglia over the weekend in a pilot scheme which, if successful, will be extended to the rest of the country.

A Lynx helicopter provided by the Army Air Corps removed the rotting hulks of abandoned boats from an island in the River Deben near Woodbridge, Suffolk, to publicise the campaign, which is backed by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and the Tidy Britain Group (TBG).

Volunteers will clean up the Norfolk Broads, police will sweep litter from the streets of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, and Sea Scouts will remove rubbish from an industrial estate in Colchester, Essex.

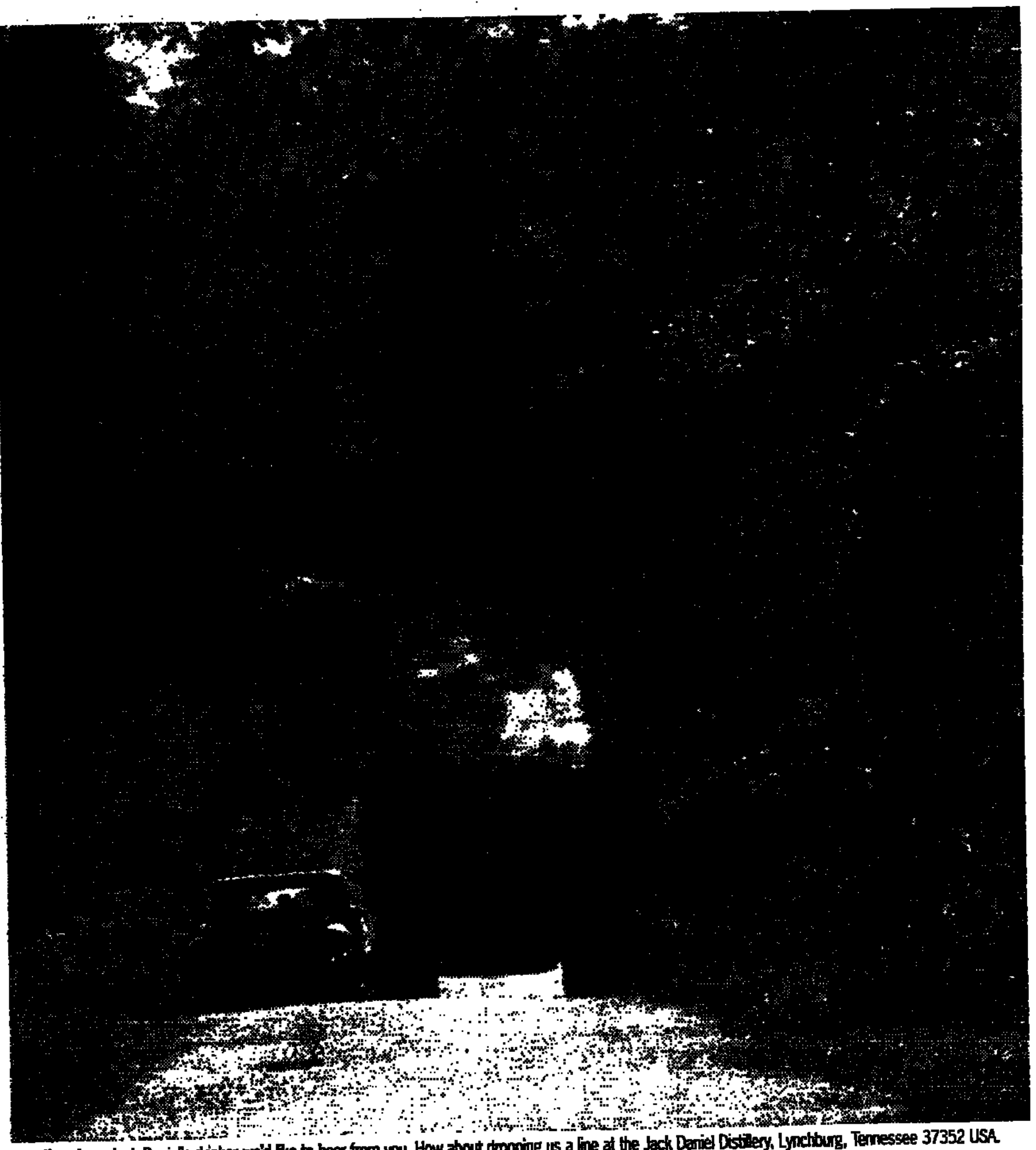
"The response from the people of East Anglia has been superb, with telephone callers reporting 'grot spots' to us and over 100 groups rushing to enlist," said Graham Ashworth, director-general of the TBG.

In a recent survey conducted by the NFU, 70 per cent of farmers complained about illegally dumped rubbish, including garden and domestic waste, builders' rubble, burnt-out cars, old tyres and household appliances such as old fridges and washing machines.

Sir David Naish, president of the NFU, said: "This is a very real problem which affects everyone, from people living and working in the countryside to those wishing to visit.

"Fly-tipped waste is unsightly, costly to remove and potentially dangerous to livestock and people."

Anyone wanting to take part in the campaign can ring 0990 880022. In East Anglia, people can ring 01942 824620 to report "grot spots" and for help in removing large items of rubbish.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

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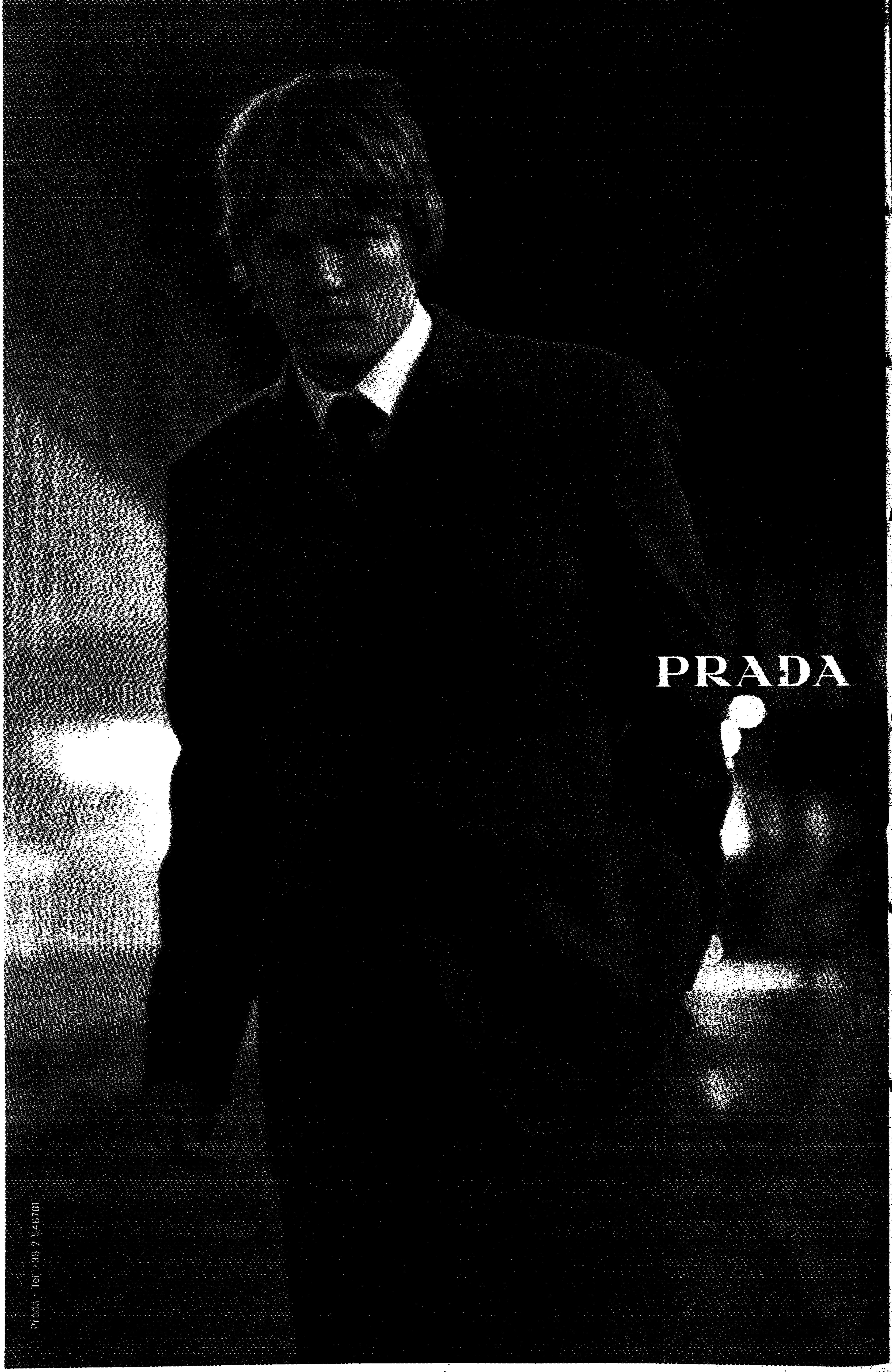

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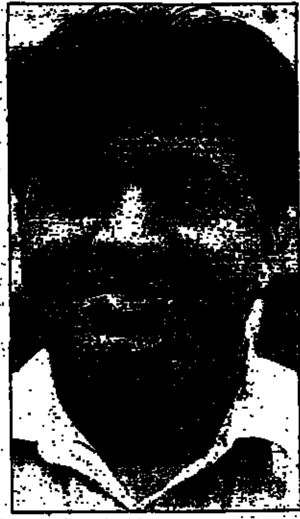
Businessman's wife 'met the same fate as his girlfriend'

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES



Mohan Singh Kular, who claimed £800,000

A BUSINESSMAN murdered his wife on their second honeymoon months after insuring her life for more than £800,000, a court was told yesterday.

Mohan Singh Kular, 46, took out three policies on his wife Ninderjit's life, including one just a few weeks before her death.

The Swindon market trader told friends that his wife had been killed in a road accident in India, but an investigation by British police concluded that not only had he murdered his wife but that an identical fate had befallen another partner six years before.

Yesterday Mr Kular denied murdering his wife, 26, in 1987, and Baksho Kaur Hans, his business partner and common-law wife, in 1981.

Nigel Pascoe, QC, for the prosecution, told a jury at Bristol Crown Court: "This is the case of two separate murders of two deeply unhappy women, treated badly by an increasingly angry man, tricked into going back to their original country, India.

"Mr Kular deliberately planned to kill these two ladies because he had no further use for them, because he was angry and because he planned to profit financially from their deaths."

Mr Pascoe told the court that Mr Kular married his wife at Walsall register office on March 2, 1983 after an arranged Sikh wedding ceremony in India. The couple had two children but soon their relationship turned violent, with Mrs Kular often taking refuge in women's hostels.

Mr Kular told Maureen Smithers, a friend who also had a market stall, how he planned to "get rid" of his wife. Mr Pascoe said: "He said at one point he was going to take Ninderjit back to India where he was going to get rid of her. Once Maureen Smithers asked him what he meant. He just tapped the side of his nose."

By October 1986, Mr Kular "prised" his wife away from the refuge and persuaded her to travel with him. On a visit to her sister Amrik, Mrs Kular had scratches on her body.

In December 1986 she was in hospital after being injured by a car. And on January 16, 1987 she was dead. Mr Pascoe said: "Mr Kular said his wife had got out of a car to urinate and was hit by a truck. This was no accident, although that's exactly what the defendant tried to make it appear.

"There was a time when Mr Kular had been drinking and he admitted, we say, that with the help of others, he strangled Ninderjit with her own scarf. A witness saw her body with the scarf around her swollen neck. He admitted throwing her body from a moving vehicle so as to make her death look like an accident."

The court was told that Mr Kular bribed officials with £15,000 he had taken with him to India. Mr Pascoe said: "He was able to get documents that would later allow him to say that this was an accidental death and would allow him to make a claim for insurance money."

"At that time, Ninderjit's life was insured by Phoenix Assurance. The policy was in the sum of £250,000. She was further insured with the Royal Life insurance company for £250,000 and £300,000."

Detectives used the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and British Nationality Act to bring Mr Kular to trial in England even though both alleged offences were committed abroad. During the two-year investigation, officers discovered that Mr Kular's business partner Baksho Kaur, 29, had died mysteriously after a similar "reconciliation trip".

A divorced mother with one child, she was found strangled in a drainage ditch by villagers in the Bathinda district of the Punjab, but the case was closed by the Indian authorities. The court was told that her sister Jogiro gradually saw the relationship between them turn violent.

She had wanted a greater share of the business, Mr Pascoe said, and during a visit to India Mr Kular planned to kill her on a car trip with the help of his friend Mangal Singh. Mr Pascoe said: "Mr Kular gave Baksho a drink of alcohol with something in it that had the effect of making her feel dizzy. He beckoned to *Mangal Singh to come back to* the vehicle. He took the ends of a scarf Baksho was wearing. He tied a knot around her neck and it was tightened."

The trial continues.

Ninderjit Kular, left, and Baksho Kaur, both of whom died while on "reconciliation" trips to India

BERNARD WHITE

Jenny Osgood presented a petition to the Indian *Prime Minister yesterday*

Tiger finds English friend

A 16-YEAR-OLD English girl presented a 7,000-name petition yesterday to the Indian Prime Minister, calling for him to save tigers from extinction (Christopher Thomas in Delhi writes). Inder Kumar Gujral's willingness to meet Jenny Osgood demonstrated a personal commitment to preserving the 3,000 tigers left in India. Jenny, from Newquay, Cornwall, raised the petition after learning of the plight of tigers from the Environment Investigation Agency. The 7,000 names on the petition are equal to the number of tigers left in the wild worldwide.

Animals win place in the prayers of churchgoers

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ANIMALS from pet mice to the great whales will replace the Middle East, Northern Ireland and the former Yugoslavia in prayers across Britain tomorrow.

Hundreds of churches and cathedrals are expected to celebrate World Prayer Day for Animals, which coincides with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

The services, some of which will involve healings and blessings of pets, emphasise a growing interest within churches and congregations in the spiritual celebration of animals.

The Rev Andrew Linzey, honorary Professor of Animal Welfare at Birmingham University and a theological research fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford, said yesterday: "The churches have been morally backward when it comes to animal welfare and environmental issues generally."

This was despite the strong theological and biblical references linking care for animals and wildlife with reverence for God and His creation.

"But there is a mood of change with growing numbers of churches holding services for animal welfare, and some bishops are sympathetic. It is not a mass movement yet, but I think we are turning the tide."

Professor Linzey has produced an order of service, being circulated by the RSPCA, for churches wanting to take part in the prayer day.

At St Asaph Cathedral in north Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Archbishop of Wales, will be blessing cats, dogs and other companion animals during the service and "outside for large animals". A spokeswoman for the cathedral said large animals included "horses, cows, sheep, camels and elephants. We have Colwyn Bay zoo near by."

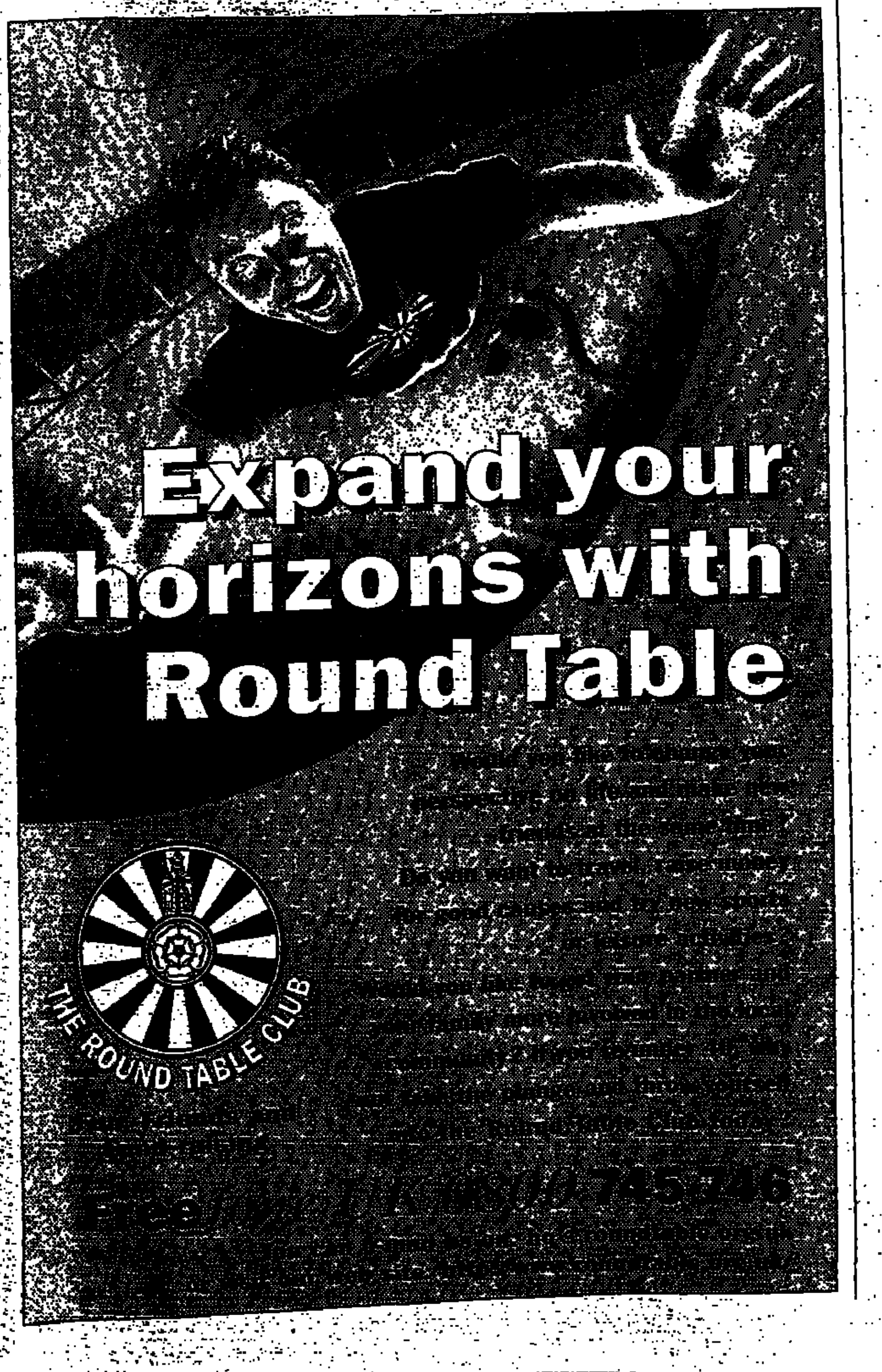
Ripon Cathederal in North Yorkshire will be saying and singing psalms, hymns and prayers at 5.30pm for whales, dolphins and porpoises. Recorded whale sounds will be played during the service.

David Smith of Breach, a marine protection conservation group, *said yesterday*: "It is the first service of its kind to commemorate the great whales which have been slaughtered for commercial reasons and to pray for those whose survival is still in danger from constant pressure from humankind."

John Methuen, the Dean of Ripon, said the service would include biblical readings that make references to whales. People will be asked to carry out an act of *penitence for* human beings' involvement in the destruction of rain forests, pollution and the extinction of species before lighting candles for the whales.

Mr Methuen said: "Christians should be in the forefront. We have the responsibility as well as the privilege to use but not abuse creation."

At Your Service Weekend, page 17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rumour, rumour

Rumour,
rumour,
rumour,
rumour,
rumour.

'bellow'

r, rumour

'mumble, mumble

Rumour, rumour, rumour

Guffaw

whisper, whisper

waffle, waffle

'sob, sob'

CHITTER-CHATTER

mour, rumour

tittle-tattle

rumour, rumour

jabber
jabber

Gobbledegook

Rumour, rumour, rumour

chin-wag

'natter, witter, mutter, prattle...blabber...

for the mobile phone network that carries more words between more people, the word is ' '

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Balloon goes up over BBC's new corporate image

It's bright and full of hot air, but not all staff are sold on bill for friendly logo, writes Carol Midgley

THE new weapon in the crusade to give the BBC a cosier image was unveiled yesterday in the shape of a red and yellow hot air balloon.

From 6am today millions of television viewers will be seeing the brightly coloured inflatable globe rising over famous British landmarks ranging from the Forth Bridge in Scotland to Cardiff's City Hall.

The image, together with a modernised BBC1 logo, cost more than £500,000 to film and is part of the corporation's £5.2 million campaign to modernise and unify its corporate identity for the digital age. It has been designed by Martin Lambie-Nairn, the man who conceived the idea for *Spitting Image*.

The sight of the balloon floating past the office blocks of Canary Wharf or the Swinside stone circle in Cumbria inbetween programmes, is intended the convey the message that BBC1 is a trusted friend which reaches all parts of Britain. It will replace the more austere revolving globe which has been BBC1's symbol since 1991.

The BBC's corporate logo, using the simple typeface developed by sculptor Eric Gill in the 1930s, will be gradually introduced on BBC stationery and vehicle livery. Pam Masters, the BBC's director of broadcasting and presentation, said: "At a time of unprecedented competition in broadcasting and the impending explosion of new digital and widescreen channels and service, the BBC has an ideal opportunity to reappraise its identity. The existing logo was never ideal for use on screen."

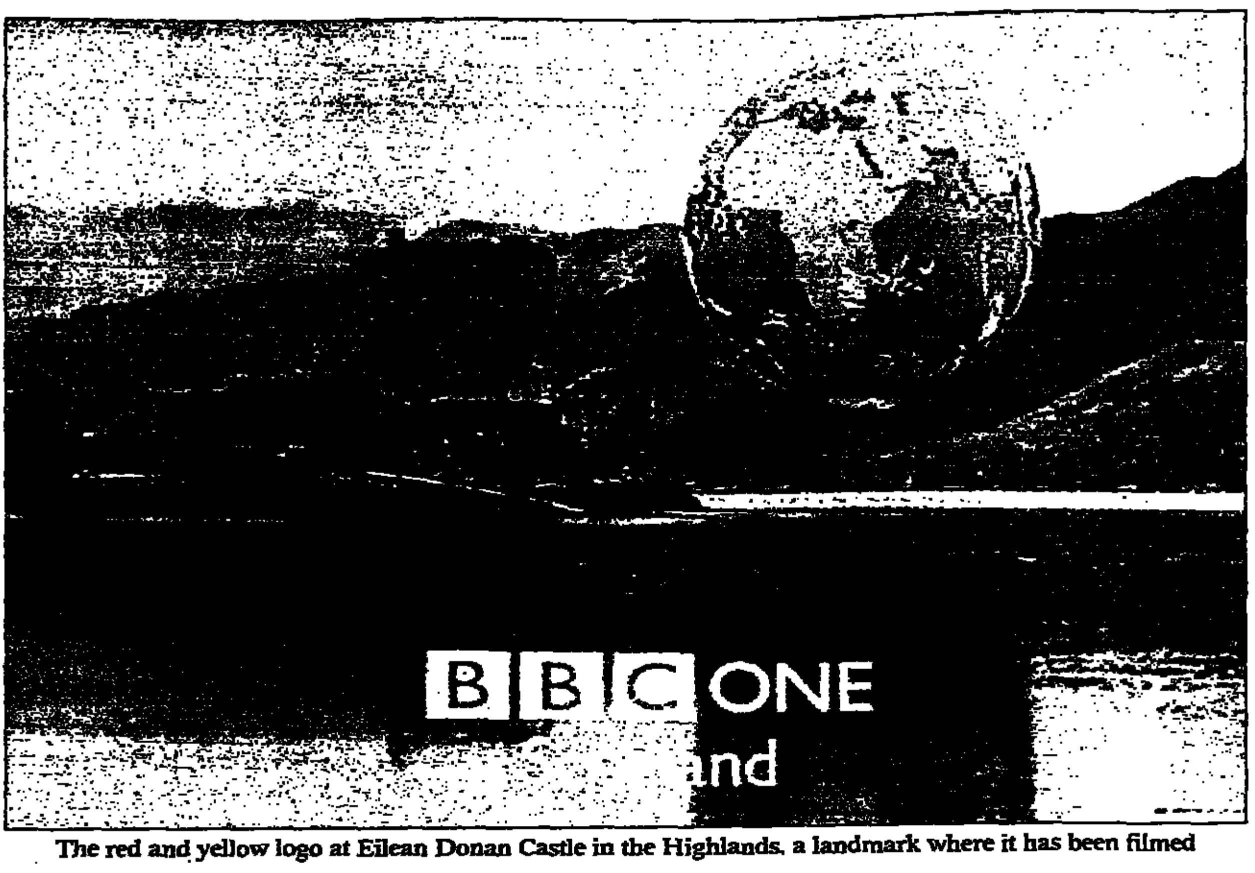
Alan Yentob, the BBC's director of television, added: "The rapid increase in competition and the pace of change within the broadcasting industry now means BBC1 needs an identity which is more flexible and appealing. The globe has always been associated with the BBC flagship channel and the choice of a balloon seemed an imaginative way of emphasising the universal appeal of BBC1.

"It is the foundation for the future; more elegant, more coherent, more cost effective and easier to implement."

Edward Booth-Clibborn, a publisher of books on design and former chairman of the charity Design and Art Direction, said: "I understand what the BBC is trying to do. It has always been rather authoritarian in its imagery and not particularly user-friendly and it wants to change that with all the new digital channels coming along. This balloon is not a bad image but the BBC should not forget that there is lot more to this than changing a logo."

When Martin Lambie-Nairn was asked to work on new designs for BBC1 and 2 in 1990, he said the corporation needed to rethink its design. "At present, design in the BBC delivers no coherent message. This is because the corporation is in reality a set of small empires, each of them trying to say what it wants. The BBC can no longer sit back and say 'We have always done it this way'."

A member of staff from BBC News said: "We really do marvel at the BBC management's idea of timing sometimes. A lot of BBC staff are very unhappy over pay and conditions at the moment. They are on the point of striking because they are working longer hours with no extra pay, which management know perfectly well. What a wonderful time to say we have spent £500,000 on a balloon to give us a friendlier image."



The red and yellow logo at Eilean Donan Castle in the Highlands, a landmark where it has been filmed

£30,000 payout for sex claim woman

By Michael Horsnell

A MARKETING manager who was subjected to a campaign of sexual harassment by her boss, which culminated in him giving her a 12in phallic symbol, won £31,485 compensation yesterday.

A Southampton industrial tribunal was told that Maxine Brooks's hair began to fall out because of the stress she suffered at the hands of her "foul-mouthed" managing director, Paul Donney.

Mrs Brooks, 55, told the hearing she had been repeatedly mortified by Mr Donney, 51, during her 11 months at the furniture importers Charleroi International, of Southampton. She told the tribunal: "I was at the end of my tether. I snapped and had to get out."

Thomas Croxford, her legal representative, told the hearing: "Mr Donney is a totally vile individual who is deeply, deeply unpleasant. She has been the victim of a prolonged campaign of abuse, using sexual swear words and bragging about his sexual conquests."

Uproar as TV soap's bad boy goes teaching

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

THE choice of a drug-taking jailbird as a trainee teacher in Channel 4's *Brookside* yesterday has led government officials to call for urgent talks with the show's writers.

The Teacher Training Agency, set up by the Government to oversee teaching and promote its image, was horrified when *Brookside's* notorious Jimmy Corkhill lied about his qualifications to enrol on a teaching course. Education is Corkhill's latest calling in a colourful soap career which has included burglary, heroin addiction and manslaughter.

Dorian Jabri, the agency's head of external communications, has written pleading with Brookside Productions to treat teacher training "sensitively" and has asked for a meeting to "discuss the development of this particular storyline".

His letter comes just days after Tony Blair praised Phil Redmond, *Brookside's* creator, for offering to support the Government's literacy campaign in his plotlines.

An agency spokesman said it was concerned by the plot which last week saw Corkhill threatening to give troublesome pupils a thick ear.

The spokesman said: "This is not appropriate at a time when we are all trying to work together to boost the status of the profession."

Mr Redmond said yesterday that he had not yet received the letter, but his producer would agree to a meeting, even though he thought the concern "missed the point".

"This is Jimmy's road to Damascus and the storyline will touch later on whether good teachers are born or whether they are trained," he said.

Brookside Productions said Corkhill was a reformed character since the birth of his son this summer, and had not taken drugs for a year.

They pointed out that Corkhill's typically rogueish behaviour in fact exposed a loophole of concern to teacher unions. No police checks are made on aspiring teachers until they qualify, leaving unscreened trainee teachers free to take classes.

Corkhill is played by Dean Sullivan, a former teacher, who said his character showed drug-abusers could reform.

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Diana would have approved, Morton insists

By Kathryn Knight and Paul Whittaker

AS ANDREW MORTON defended himself against accusations of exploitation yesterday. customers were battling in London bookshops for the first copies of his revised biography of Diana. Princess of Wales — *Diana: Her True Story — In Her Own Words.*

Most large book chains had ordered several hundred copies per shop in readiness for the official start of sales on Monday and said they had been inundated with requests.

Those arriving at selected stores which had advance copies yesterday had travelled into the capital specially and defended both Morton's decision to publish and their right to read the book.

On ITV's *This Morning* the author responded to criticism about the timing of the book's release, a month after the death of the Princess. He said he had not revealed anything new but merely disclosed his working methods.

Morton: "she doesn't need protecting now"

Responding to criticism that his revelations were potentially damaging to Princes William and Harry, he said he thought Diana would have been "pefectly happy" for him to divulge her direct involvement in the book and said he had behaved honourably. "I think the boys have seen what's happened for a few years. If they really want to understand their mother they would read her words . . . I've always said 'No' [when asked whether she was the source] to protect her. She doesn't need protecting any more."

He also condemned the hypocrisy of tabloid newspapers. "They were perfectly happy to print stolen tapes, the Squidgy-gate tapes, the Camilla-gate tapes and then put them on 0898 numbers," he said. "Then they have the gall, the brass neck, to say I've done something wrong for conducting a proper series of interviews with the Princess of Wales, probably the scoop of the century."

He agreed he had had a commercial motive, but said it was up to individuals whether they bought his book.

While the publisher, Michael O'Mara, refuses to comment on the print run, it is expected to run into hundreds of thousands. Many shops have also reordered the original paperback.

At Dillons in central London 500 copies were on sale at 2pm. Philip Chan, 24, a student, got up at dawn and travelled from Cardiff to buy copies of the revised version for himself and his friends. As he took five from the shelves, he said: "I think it's important for us to remember her, and this might help. Princess Diana chose him to do the writing and she trusted him. He was a first-hand confidant and we have to see him as her messenger."

Mr Morton refused to be drawn on the exact amount of a "substantial donation" he said he and his publisher had given to an unnamed charity.

The Times published earlier this week the foreword from the revised edition of Mr Morton's book and an extract from a chapter written after the Princess's death. It was decided not to publish extracts from transcripts of the tape recordings made by the Princess.

Paris crash experts comb Fiat records

By Ben Macintyre in Paris
and Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

SCIENTISTS have cross-matched Fiat Uno paint samples found at the scene of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales died from more than 30,000 colours used by carmakers.

The mystery car, which may have collided with the Mercedes carrying the Princess moments before it crashed, left behind a "fingerprint" in the form of a scrape containing microscopic flecks of paint.

Investigators have established that shards of a rear brake light found at the scene of the crash came from a Fiat Uno, and police forensic scientists believe that paint scratches on the body of the Mercedes and a detached wing mirror were left by the same make of car.

Police now "strongly favour" the theory that the limousine collided with the smaller vehicle before veering out of control, and investigators have begun compiling lists of owners of Fiat Uno cars by trawling through registration records.

Police are also combing insurance claims for Fiat Uno owners who had a rear brake light or bodywork repaired in the days after the accident. The search will begin in the Paris area and broaden across the country.

PPG Industries, which manufactures the paint for Fiat, said that the sample taken from the nearside flank and wing mirror of the Mercedes would carry its own signature, allowing police to establish the make and model and even the car's age to within two or three years.

The National Police Institute for Criminal Research outside Paris is making further tests.

AP

LLUIS GENE / AP

Princess Cristina, who epitomises her father's vision of a modern princess, met her fiancé, Inaki Urdangarin, a Basque athlete, at the Atlanta Games

Spain's biking Princess marries

Thousands to line the route as Juan Carlos's youngest daughter weds a commoner, writes Giles Tremlett

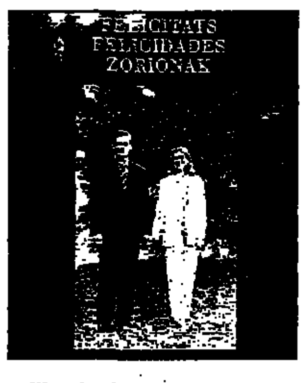
PALACE officials were yesterday carrying out last-minute preparations for Spain's royal event of the year, the wedding of King Juan Carlos's youngest daughter, Princess Cristina.

The Princess, 32, is to marry Olympic sportsman Inaki Urdangarin, 29, before 1,500 guests at a ceremony in Barcelona's Gothic cathedral today. The King, a taxpayer, will foot the bill for the wedding.

The ceremony will be broadcast live. Tens of thousands of Spaniards are expected to line the route between the cathedral and the Pedralbes Palace where the wedding reception is to be held.

Prince Edward will represent the British Royal Family. Members of all the principal royal houses of Europe will be among the guests.

The couple met at last year's Olympics in Atlanta, when Señor Urdangarin won a bronze medal with the Spanish handball team. The Princess, also a keen sportswoman, represented Spain in sailing in the 1988 Games.



The King is very proud of his youngest daughter: not only does she share his passion for sport, especially sailing, but she also epitomises his vision of a modern princess. Were she not a royal, this unstuffy, unspoilt *infanta* would be little different from many other Spanish women of her age. She holds a degree in political science.

Princess Cristina, who organises photographic exhibitions at a cultural institute in Barcelona, earns £1,000 a month. At her workplace, she rejected the offer of a private office and colleagues address her by her first name.

The Princess has lived in Barcelona, away from her family in Madrid, for the past four years. Until recently she shared a flat with her cousin, Princess Alexia of Greece. She shops in the local supermarket and walks part of the way to work.

"Real nobility comes from natural dignity, not from an inaccessible upbringing," she once said. She would rather be cycling her mountain-bike than being chauffeured in an official limousine. People in Barcelona, which is not a naturally royalist city, admire her style and will turn out in force for the wedding.

The King last week bestowed the title of Duchess of Palma on his daughter. Señor Urdangarin will hence become a duke. The title is not hereditary.

Señor Urdangarin, who at 6ft 5in, towers above King Carlos, is the sixth of seven children of a director of a small Basque savings bank.

His mother is Belgian. The athlete has said Spain's relaxed royals made him feel instantly at home. "The Royal Family has been very helpful and easy-going."

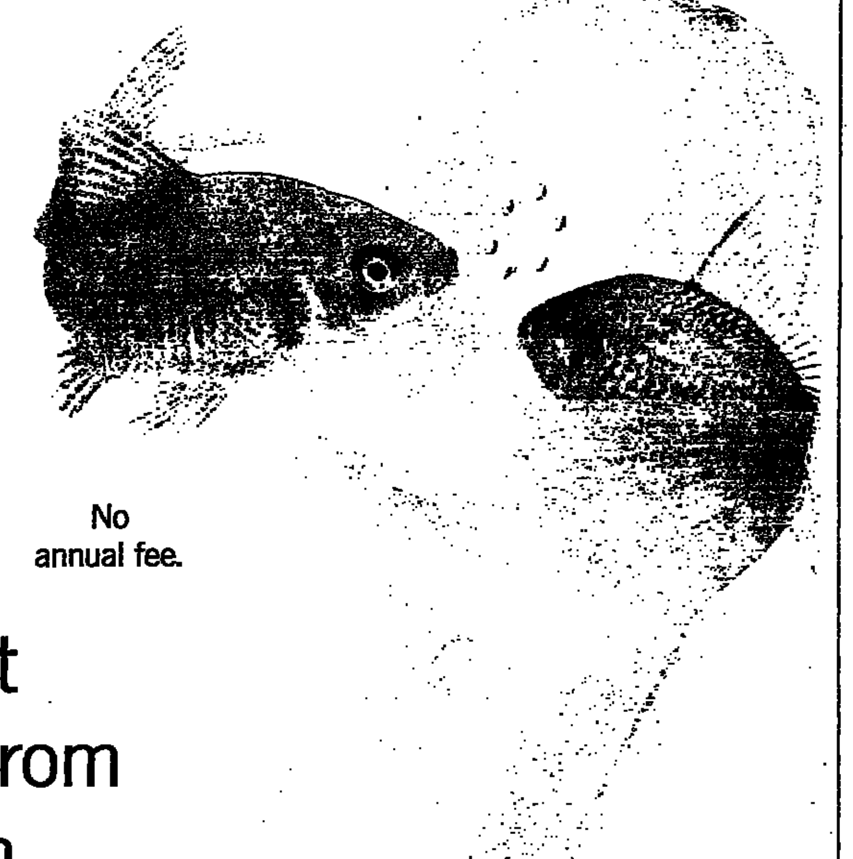
Señor Urdangarin has fitted in well. But he admits the extra attention is difficult to deal with. His handball team, owned by Barcelona FC, has experienced a sudden surge of popularity.

Spaniards are still keen on their Royal Family, restored to the throne on the death of General Franco in 1975. The Spanish press has a "hands-off" deal with King Carlos, which has helped to keep the royals free from scandal.

Princess Cristina looks set to vanish from the limelight after the wedding. But her brother, Prince Felipe, 29, will not escape the glare of publicity. Spain's gossip magazines and so-called "royal experts" are busy speculating over when and whom he will marry.

The last royal wedding in Spain took place in 1995 when the King's eldest daughter, Princess Elena, married an aristocrat, Jaime de Marichalar, in Seville.

☐ **Barcelona:** Riot police broke up a student demonstration against the monarchy yesterday. About 200 protesters took to the streets near the main university, chanting slogans. But baton-wielding police — part of a 4,500-strong force assembled to protect the wedding — surrounded the students and forced them to disperse. *(Reuters)*



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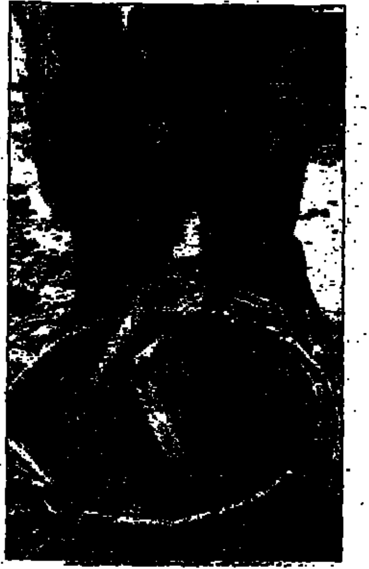
Last of the mud horse fishing line

Somerset's silt flats will soon be left to the ghosts, writes **Simon de Bruxelles**

Photographs by **Adrian Sherratt**



Catches are getting smaller, according to Brendan Sellick, left, emptying his shrimp nets at low tide with the help of his son-in-law, Kieran Kelly, who says he cannot afford to go into the business

At three o'clock in the morning, a *mile from dry* land on mud flats that could *swallow* a man *and* his tractor, it feels like the loneliest job in the world.

"When the only light is the moon and there's nothing but the mud in *every direction*, it is a very strange and mysterious landscape," admits Brendan Sellick, *the last of* Somerset's "mud horse" fishermen. "I still find it a scary place sometimes. There's even a ghost out there."

This year, Mr Sellick celebrates 50 years in the job he took over from his father at the age of 14. Twice a day, every day of the year, he sets off to cross the mile or so of *mud* between his hut on the Somerset coast and his nets strung between *poles at the low water* mark. When he decides that the time has come to call it a day, it will be the end of an industry that dates from Roman times.

Every year Mr Sellick's catch gets smaller. "We have to keep putting the nets further and further out and, although the fish are the same, there aren't nearly so many of them. We do get a lot more *money* for them, though, which compensates somewhat."

There were seven or eight other families fishing Bridgwater Bay *when he started. One by one they* have given up and the stone hut festooned with nets where Mr Sellick sells his fish is the only one that has not been converted into a bijou home or a holiday cottage. His looks to be destined for the same fate, as none of the younger members of his family is willing to follow him.

The biggest fish Mr Sellick has caught was a 96lb *conger eel. But he remembers* as a boy helping his father to bring in a 90lb *sturgeon.* "That went up to Buckingham Palace because all sturgeon belong to the monarch under an ancient law," he said.

Most of the time catches are far more modest and he rarely makes more than a couple of hundred pounds a week. He and his wife, Brenda, *have raised six daughters* and one son, all now grown up. He *said: "I never really stop working.* I've never taken holidays or anything like that." Evenings are spent with the family shelling the thousands of tiny brown shrimps he catches each day.

"My family's been fishing like this for four or five generations. If there was money in it, I wouldn't be doing this myself, I'd be paying somebody else to do it for me."

> ❝If there was money in it I wouldn't be doing this myself, I'd be paying somebody else to do it for me❞

The tides in the Bristol Channel are reputedly the second highest in the world and, when they receed, there is only one safe way to move across the vast expanses of alluvial silt: on the sledge known as a mud horse that supports the weight of the body and is propelled by *kicking the legs.* Roughly constructed of planks and twine, Mr Sellick's *is the last of dozens once in use* along the shoreline.

On this contraption, the design of which has remained unchanged for hundreds of years, he glides across the mud flats in the shadow of one of the 20th century's uglier buildings, the Hinkley Point nuclear power station. Despite the sinister appearance of its blockhouse sides and semi-permanent pall of steam, *30 years of monthly monitoring* have yet to show up the slightest *trace of contamination* in either the water or Mr Sellick's catch.

These days he makes the first part of the trek by tractor to help to carry back the harvest of fish and shrimp. But the only way to reach the nets themselves is on "horse" back. Lace-up plimsolls are essential footwear as rubber waders create too much suction. As the tide turns, Mr Sellick weighs down the mud horse with rocks and watches as the waters cover it. Every few years, when rot sets in, he needs to *build a new one.*

Out on the flats the only sound is *the whistle of the wind through the* nets. The weather can change within minutes and the tide, when it turns, comes in far faster than a man can wade though knee-deep mud. Because his nets are exposed by the tides twice every 24 hours, there can be no days off for Mr Sellick. The cod, sea bass, dab and whiting caught in the nylon strands would spoil or be eaten by the gulls that pursue him in the hope of a *discarded morsel.*

Competition for the fish can be *fierce. On one occasion a fisherman* was up to his waist in water *retrieving* a 10lb cod when a seal snatched it out of his hands. And several times Mr Sellick has seen foxes making their way gingerly across the mud to plunder his nets.

There have been other changes, apart from the reactor on the skyline, to what appears at first sight to be a timeless scene. Mr *Sellick said: "When I started we* used to have to tan the nets every fortnight to stop them rotting. We would take them in *and boil them* in a 500-gallon tank in which we *would melt this stuff like chocolate* that was called Zulu Clutch. Then they would have to be dried and carried back down to the sea. That was a hell of a hard job."

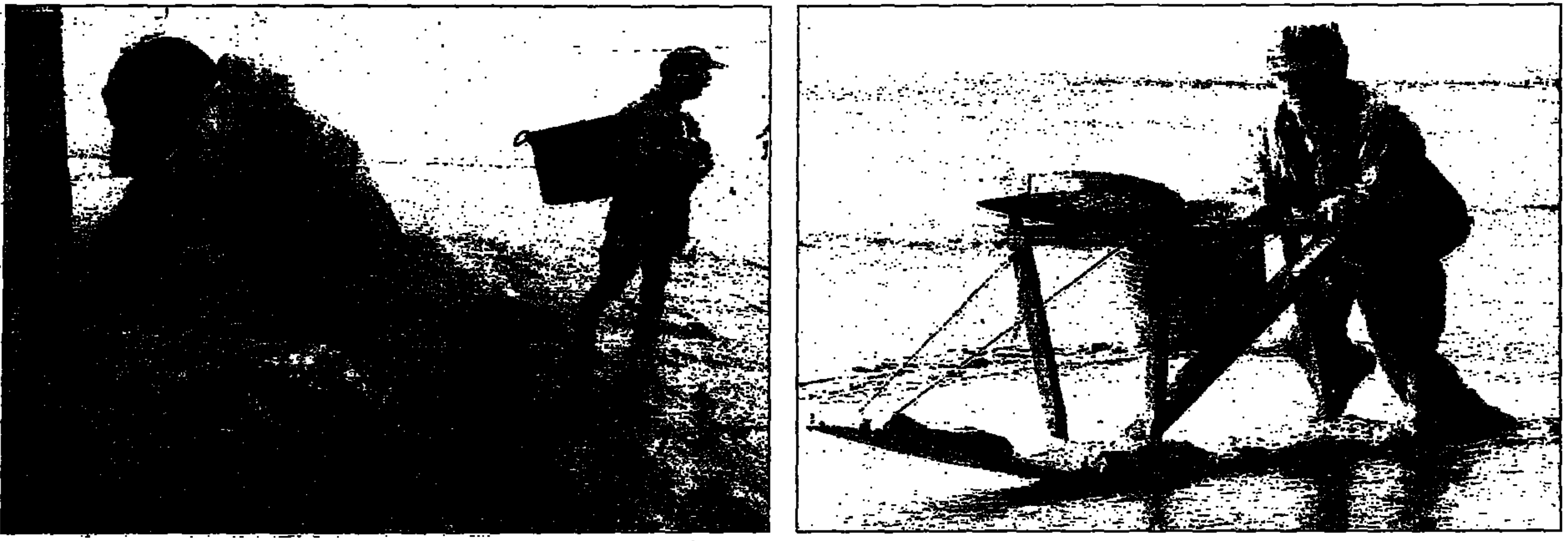
The introduction of nylon nets meant an end to this tiresome chore, but Mr Sellick's father, a traditionalist, was sceptical. He buried the *new-fangled* nets in his garden for a year before he would *believe they really were rotproof.*

Mr Sellick has never seen the ghost reputed to haunt Bridgwater Bay, but *Bert has. Bert has given* up fishing and cooks the shrimps *that Mr Sellick catches by the* basketful.

"He was out one moonlit night emptying the nets when he looked up and saw an old fisherman leaning on a post in front of him. He had a grey beard and was wearing this fisherman's coat like they used to wear centuries ago.

"Bert's hair stood up on end and he says he nearly wet himself, but *this old chap says to him, 'Don't* worry, I used to fish round here a long time ago.' Then he disappears." *Mr Sellick says he believes* the story; Bert declines to discuss *the encounter with strangers.*

When Mr Sellick retires neither his son, Adrian, nor his son-in-law, Kieran Kelly, both regular helpers, believes he will be able to carry on full-time. Mr Kelly said: "There just isn't the money in it for a family to *live on, let alone pay the mortgage."* So when Mr Sellick retires, the *mud flats of Bridgwater Bay will be* left to the ghosts of long-dead fishermen.



Mr Sellick, unfastening a cod from the nets, uses *plimsolls* and a "mud horse" *to cross the mile of silt from the stone hut on the shore from where he sells his catch*

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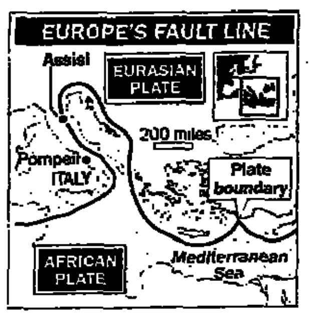
Thieves plunder treasure from the ruins of Assisi's glory



A scandal is growing over neglect of Italy's heritage after tremors damaged the Basilica of St Francis and more quakes are forecast, writes **Richard Owen** in Assisi

THE *shafts of light streaming* through the high, narrow, stained-glass windows in the Upper Church of the Basilica of St Francis reveal a desolate sight: where Franciscan friars showed visitors the wonders of *the beginnings of Western art*, rubble now covers the floor. Jagged triangular holes gape in the ceiling where there were magnificent frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue, the pioneering geniuses of 13th-century *painting*.

Yesterday the great building shook as another earthquake damaged the campanile (bell tower), after the first double earthquake a week ago which brought down the great vaulted ceiling of the Upper Church and killed four people. More tremors are forecast, and so is rain. "Look at that arch: one clap of thunder and the whole thing will come down," said a tense and red-eyed Costantino Centroni, Superintendent of Fine Arts in Umbria.

In a frantic attempt to clear up last week's damage before another collapse, mini-bulldozers are shifting the dust and masonry piled high in the marble-floored interior, while workers in hard hats sweep up remnants of fallen frescoes.

"This is scandalous, criminal," said Professor Federico Zeri, Italy's leading art historian, and an outspoken critic of *the art establishment*. "The pieces should be carefully sorted by hand. I saw similar mistakes after the Second World War, for example when the Mantegna frescoes in the Eremitani church in Padua were swept up after bomb damage. But what can you expect? Italy's art treasures are in the hands of people who are either cretins or corrupt, and in some cases both."

Guido Botticelli, Italy's foremost art restorer, said the damage was greater because the frescoes had fallen from the ceiling rather than the walls, and it would take years to piece together surviving coloured fragments.

Part of the problem is that vital pieces are missing, either *through clumsiness* or theft. Altogether 60 square metres of fresco have disintegrated. The basilica, built as a double church in the Gothic style after the death of St Francis in 1226, is cordoned off to keep people out. But outside *Adalberto* Falletta, a journalist, holds blue, green and gold fragments from a fresco, perhaps Cimabue's *The Four Evangelists* above the main altar or Giotto's *Doctors of the Church* above the door. A figure of St Matthew in the Cimabue work collapsed into the nave 60ft below, as did a figure of St Jerome in the Giotto.

"I was given them by someone who just picked them up," he said in disbelief. The fragments are now in the hands of the carabinieri. "A normal guy, not a criminal type, just a tourist I think. But other bits are in criminal hands. I'm afraid its the usual Italian scandal of ineptitude and corruption. This place should have been guarded like Fort Knox, instead of which price*less fragments of art are* traded on the black market".

A week on, Italy is searching its soul over its treatment of its single most precious asset, its art treasures — *il patrimonio*. "Italy just does not pay serious *attention to the maintenance* of its monuments," said Bruno Zanardi, a restorer who worked for a decade on the Giotto frescoes.

Under a shelter with a corrugated-iron roof, just outside the Assisi basilica, volunteers in white cotton masks are sifting through dusty mounds of rubble, putting aside anything which appears to be valuable. "I cannot believe fragments have been stolen," said Paola Passalacqua, one of the supervisors. "We are vigilant day and night."

But Antonio Paolucci, the former Culture Minister and currently Superintendent of Arts in Florence, who has been put in charge of post-earthquake restoration at Assisi, told me theft and mismanagement "could not be excluded". He added: "Our resources are *not enough to look after the* legacy we have been left."

The final tally of damage at Assisi may not be known for some time: the great cycle of frescoes attributed to Giotto on the life of St Francis *appears intact, but there may* be cracks covered by dust. The frescoes in the Lower Church, which has a crypt-like, low vaulted ceiling and which absorbed the tremors better, are undamaged, including *Giotto's Nativity and Flight into Egypt*, and Cimabue's *Madonna Enthroned between the Angels and St Francis*. Cimabue's great cycle of faded frescoes on the life of the Virgin in the Upper Church — which the Renaissance writer Giorgio Vasari noted four centuries ago were being "ravaged by time and dust" — appear untouched.

But there are structural cracks in many walls and fear of further earthquakes. Assisi is not only a picturesque hill town, and the fourth most popular tourist destination in Italy: it is the birthplace of Western art, *the place where* the flat, stylised images of Byzantine art gave way to individual humanistic portrayals, laying the foundations for the Renaissance.

Professor Zeri's theory is *that the humanisation of art at* a critical medieval turning point was not by chance ("Giotto did not get up one day and say, 'today I paint in a different style',") but was part of the Church's response to *heretical beliefs denying the* value of human life on earth. "I believe Giotto and others were authorised to depict human beings more vividly and emotionally to counteract infuential heresies which said only *life in the world beyond* had meaning".

Professor Zeri is furious that original wooden beams "in perfect condition" were replaced with reinforced concrete in the 1960s, making the basilica *suddenly* vulnerable to earthquakes after hundreds of years. "The same is true of buildings in Florence, including the Duomo and the Pitti *Palace, and they too are in* danger. The elite which once looked after our treasures has gone. There is no social discipline any more, no one is punished for misdeeds."

Gianfranco Sassi, the public *prosecutor in Perugia* investigating the deaths of two friars and two surveyors who were buried by the rubble a week ago, is considering the charge that "faulty restoration" contributed to, or even caused, *their deaths*.

Vittorio Sgarbi, an Italian MP and art collector, who made an early inspection of damage to the Upper Church, points to a series of disasters in the art world over the past 18 *months: the* fire which gutted La Fenice opera house in Venice, the fire in the royal chapel at Turin cathedral, the collapse of the superb Baroque cathedral at Noto in Sicily. He believes they have "an almost *metaphysical meaning, pre*monitions of a millennial apocalypse, perhaps".

There has been widespread criticism of the Pope for attending a pop concert with Bob Dylan in Bologna the day after the earthquake, *instead* of going to Assisi. "The Vatican always said rock music was Satanic," said *La Repubblica*. "Perhaps Assisi is retribution".

More prosaically, Signor Sgarbi says that priceless artworks are leaving the country illegally, especially the 20 per cent in private collections. "We need more controls to ensure that money — state money, donations — is not spent corruptly or wasted on the wrong things. There are too many crimes of taste in *Italy — restorers using the* wrong colours, the wrong materials." At Nocera, not far from Assisi, a tiny, isolated church with 15th-century frescoes was deliberately demolished after the earthquake. "It was an international scandal," Signor Sgarbi said. "But no one noticed. These treasures have never been properly catalogued or photographed. The Assisi catalogue dates from the 1930s. Human error does more harm than earthquakes; the church of San Gregorio in Celio in Rome has been so badly restored it looks like a pizzeria, and the restoration of the Bramante courtyard of the *church of Santa Maria della* Pace [also in Rome] is a catastrophe: wrong flooring, wrong stucco, they even put in modern lifts."

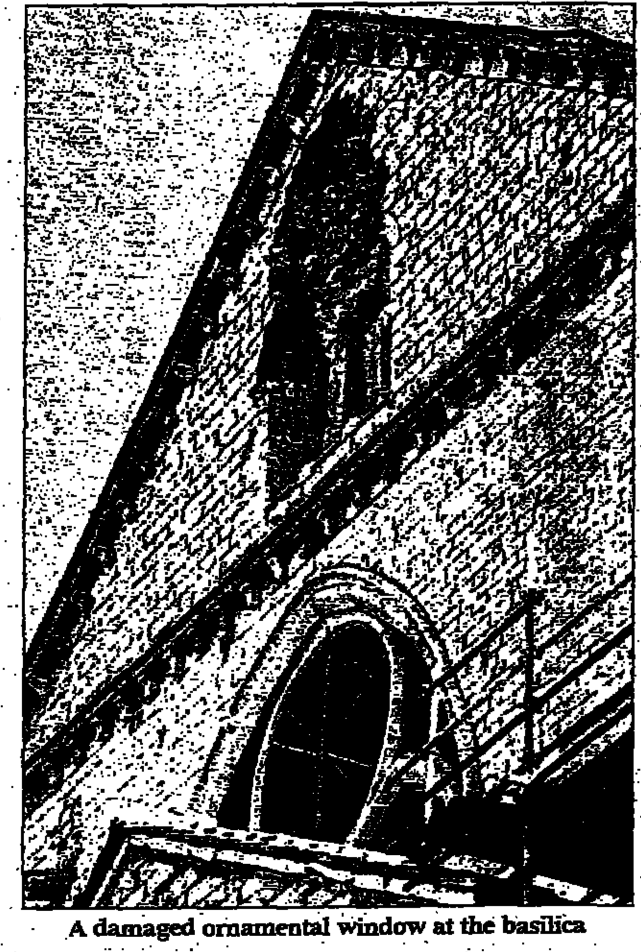
At Noto, stones from the cathedral dome carefully numbered by restorers were recently found on a rubbish *heap, about to be buried in the* foundations of a new primary school — possibly an attempt to conceal evidence of Mafia involvement in the siphoning off of restoration funds, which led to neglect. Even when fragments are properly collected, says Professor Zeri, they often end up in storerooms: thousands of pieces of the Tiepolo ceiling from the Palazzo Canossa in Verona, damaged in the Second World War like the Mantegna frescoes in Padua and the frescoes in the Camposanto chapel in Pisa, are still in boxes. As Assisi braces itself for more tremors, its steep cobbled streets are *almost* deserted: there are only a handful of tourists in a town which normally has 4½ million visitors a year.

"This is an economic and humanitarian disaster as well as an artistic one," said *Lorenzo Capezzali, the spokes*man at the Renaissance town hall, just up the hill from the ruined basilica. All the churches are closed, and only five "Poor Clare" nuns remain camping out in the convent garden to guard the Basilica of Santa Chiara, the burial place of St Clare, St Francis's devoted companion. Many houses bear handwritten signs saying "uninhabitable" and banks and public offices have transferred to Perugia, 15 miles away. "They may not be able to return for three or four years," Signor Capezzali said.

Signor Paolucci vowed that the Government would "restore Assisi" in time for the millennium when Assisi, like Rome, is expect to attract millions of pilgrims.

However, Professor Zeri said: "The basilica will never be the same again. The Assisi we have known, and which was handed down to us by masters of genius 700 years ago, is no more."

> ❛ Italy's art is in the hands of people who are cretins or corrupt, or both ❜


A damaged ornamental window at the basilica

Letters, page 23

Fears of 'Big One' fuelled by

By Richard Owen

THE Assisi earthquake yes*terday, measuring 5.1 on the* Richter scale, was felt in neighbouring Tuscany and in Rome. It brought down part of the campanile on the Basilica of St Francis, and further damaged the tympanum on the main façade. There was also damage to other historic buildings in the town, including the Pinacoteca (art muse*um), town hall, an institute for* handicapped children and the Assisi hospital. All were evacuated.

The National Geographical Institute said the epicentre was in Colfiorito, a village six miles from Foligno, which was the epicentre of last Friday's quakes. No deaths were reported, but four fire*men were injured, one seri*ously. The shock sent people in Perugia running into the streets in panic, and the belltower on Foligno's town hall, damaged a week ago, collapsed. An earthquake measuring 4.2 jolted Arezzo

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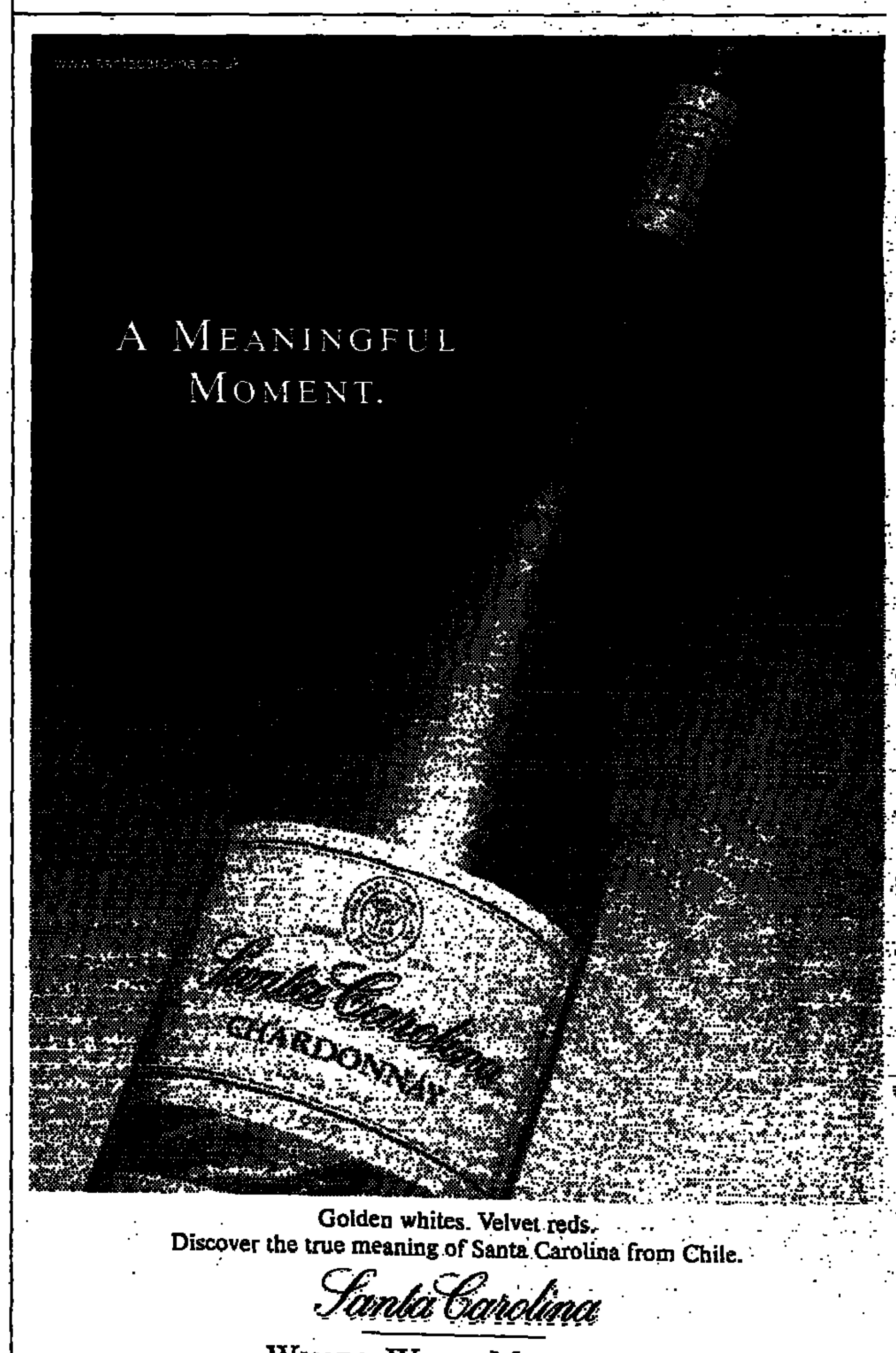
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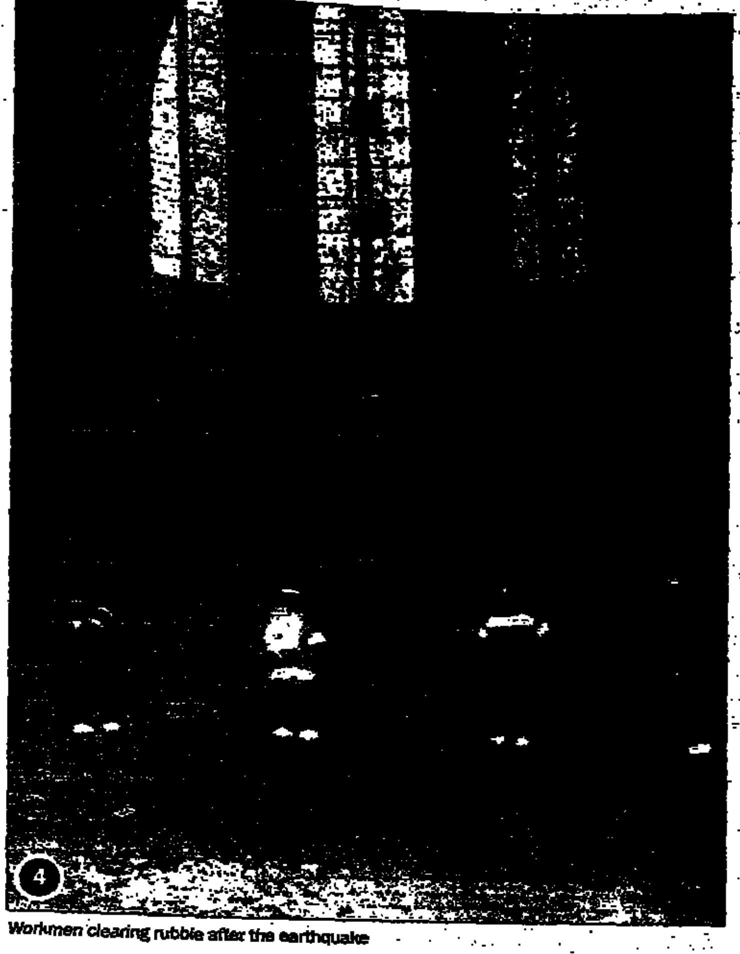
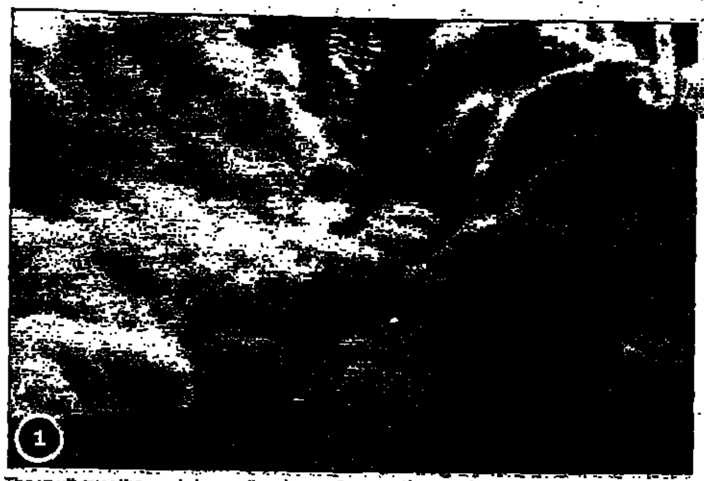
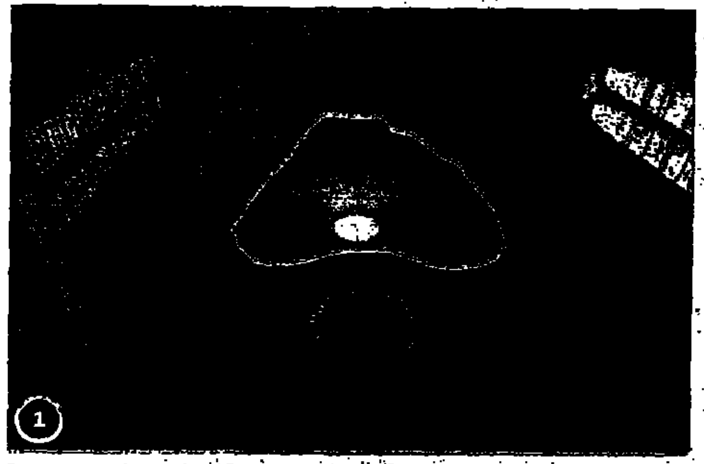
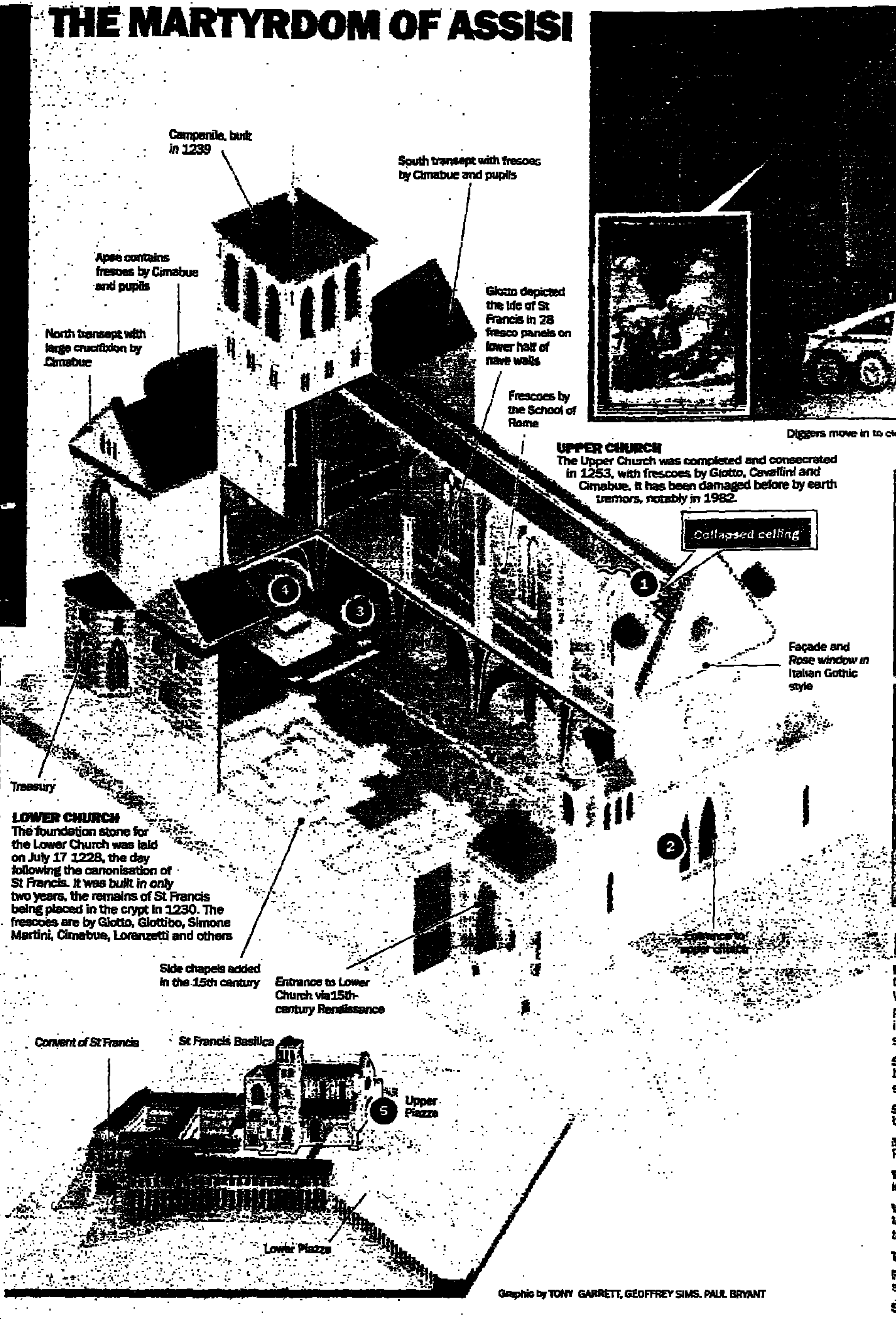
THE MARTYRDOM OF ASSISI


Workmen clearing rubble after the earthquake


The vault over the west door collapsing on September 26, killing four people


Damage to vaulted roof and Rose Window exposing roof space

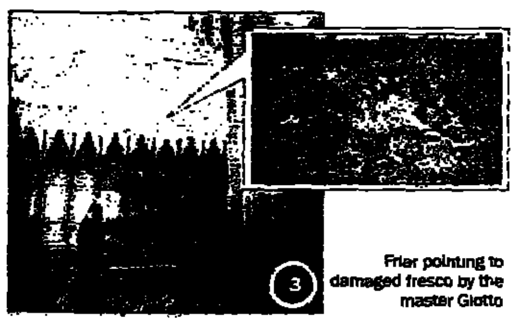

Campanile, built in 1239
South transept with frescoes by Cimabue and pupils
Apse contains frescoes by Cimabue and pupils
North transept with large crucifixion by Cimabue
Giotto depicted the life of St Francis in 28 fresco panels on lower half of nave walls
Frescoes by the School of Rome
Collapsed ceiling
Façade and Rose window in Italian Gothic style
Treasury
Side chapels added in the 15th century
Entrance to Lower Church via 15th-century Renaissance
Entrance to upper church
Convent of St Francis
St Francis Basilica
Upper Piazza
Lower Piazza
1
2
3
4
5

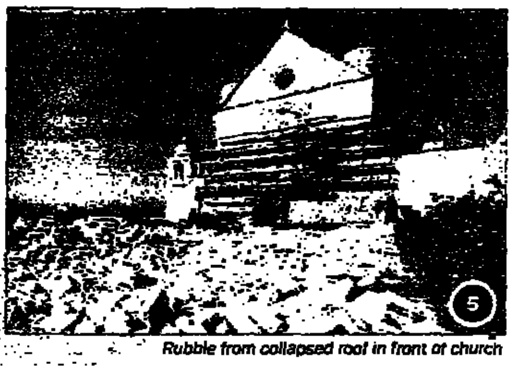
UPPER CHURCH
The Upper Church was completed and consecrated in 1253, with frescoes by Giotto, Cavallini and Cimabue. It has been damaged before by earth tremors, notably in 1982.

LOWER CHURCH
The foundation stone for the Lower Church was laid on July 17 1228, the day following the canonisation of St Francis. It was built in only two years, the remains of St Francis being placed in the crypt in 1230. The frescoes are by Giotto, Giottibo, Simone Martini, Cimabue, Lorenzetti and others

Graphic by TONY GARRETT, GEOFFREY SIMS, PAUL BRYANT

Diggers move in to clear fallen ceiling above the entrance. Detail shows original fresco


Friar pointing to damaged fresco by the master Giotto


Rubble from collapsed roof in front of church

CHRONOLOGY OF THE UMBRIAN DISASTER

Friday 26-09-97: First earthquake strikes at 2.33am, 5.5 on the Richter scale. Minor damage. Secondary tremor at 6.49. While monks and experts are inspecting damage, second more *powerful earthquake hits at 11.43, bringing down the ceiling* in the Upper Church, killing four people (two friars and two surveyors) and destroying frescoes by Cimabue and Giotto.

Saturday 27-09-97: Further aftershocks. Rescue workers *begin to remove rubble from sealed-off* basilica. *Government* sets aside $500 million for restoration and relief work.

Sunday 28-09-97: *Church services held in open air, debate* begins on who is to blame and how restoration should proceed.

Monday 29-09-97: *President Scalfaro visits earthquake zone.* Perugia public prosecutor opens inquiry into deaths.

Tuesday 30-09-97: Friars complain publicly that the *judicial* inquiry is unnecessary, and say the priority should be restoration.

Wednesday 01-10-97: Franco *Barberi*, head of Civil Protection, tells Umbrian mayors that he does not have enough resources *to house all the homeless.*

Thursday 02-10-97: Futher minor tremors.

Friday 03-10-97: Earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale hits Umbria at 10.55am. Further damage to the basilica.

Saturday 04-10-97: Feast Day of Saint Francis.

sheer strength and number of tremors

in Tuscany on Thursday night. Enzo Boschi, a seismologist, said that Umbria and the Apennines were used to small tremors, but the strength and number of those now hitting Central Italy was "unprecedented".

Assisi's basilica has been cordoned off all week while restorers sift through rubble to try to retrieve 60 square metres of damaged or destroyed frescoes. Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is touring the area, yesterday praised the dedication of rescue and restoration workers.

Italian newspapers predicted yesterday that it was only a matter of time before the country was hit by the "Big One" — a quake comparable with those that struck Messina in 1908, Friuli in 1976 and Irpinia in 1980.

Franco Barberi, head of the Civil Protection Unit, said that "in Central and Southern Italy, 70 per cent of the territory is at risk". The unit has provided "tent cities" for those in Umbria and Marche whose homes have been declared unsafe. An estimated 150,000 are sleeping in cars or tents.

Franciscan friars at Assisi will still celebrate the feast day of St Francis today, but in the valley below the town outside the Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli.

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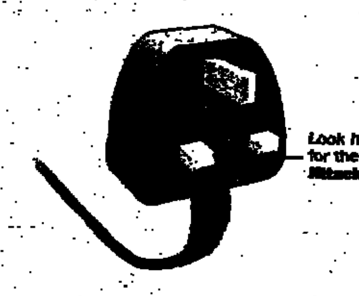

Hitachi HE-25 plugs supplied with some SNES and N64 video games systems may pose a safety risk in certain circumstances. There is a remote chance that the back cover of the plug may become detached during unplugging, exposing the internal wires. As a precautionary measure in the interests of our customers' safety, Nintendo is conducting a product recall of Hitachi HE-25 plugs.

Only Hitachi HE-25 plugs are affected.
This does not affect the video games consoles or cartridges.

If you own a SNES or N64 system, please follow these precautionary measures (adults please do these for children):

1. Turn off the mains power supply and carefully remove plug from socket.
2. Check the plug between the two lower pins to see if the mark Hitachi HE-25 is shown.
3. If it is not a Hitachi HE-25 plug, please IGNORE this recall. You may resume normal use.
4. If the plug is marked Hitachi HE-25 please stop using the system and call the freephone number listed below; a replacement plug and adapter will be issued free of charge.

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هكذا من الإصل

£20,000 award for Christmas spent in cells

By A Staff Reporter

A WEST Indian *detained* by immigration officers after arriving in Britain on holiday yesterday accepted £20,000 agreed damages from the Home Office to settle his claim for false imprisonment.

Peter Honegan, 32, a motor mechanic from Jamaica, was detained initially for 11 hours at Gatwick airport on December 21, 1993 after flying in from Kingston to spend Christmas and the new year with relatives.

His solicitor, Louise Christian, told Mr Justice Morland in the High Court in London that Mr Honegan, who had travelled with a return ticket for January 17, 1994 was taken to a detention centre.

He was served with a notice *refusing him leave to enter the* UK and detained. On Christmas Eve he was moved to Gatwick police station and held in a cell until the early hours of December 27, when he was granted temporary admission to the UK until January 17.

He returned home to Jamaica and last year brought legal proceedings. Ms Christian told the judge: "Mr Honegan *alleged that he had suffered* loss of liberty, pain and suffering and had complained about the conditions in which he had been detained.

"The Secretary of State denies liability but has consented to settle the action with a payment of £20,000 plus costs."

Mr Honegan, who is in Britain visiting relatives, was present in court yesterday. At the end of the brief hearing the judge commented: "I hope Mr Honegan will enjoy this visit to the UK."

Outside court Mr Honegan said: "The conditions I was held in were very bad. I did not have food to eat and the cell was not clean. I think my treatment was very bad. I *spent most of Christmas in* custody. It was the nightmare of my life."

Ms Christian said that other people from the same flight had also been detained.

"The new Home Secretary should come clean about why so many people were detained from the flight so injustice like that suffered by Mr Honegan does not happen again," she said. "Appeal rights for visi*tors to the country* taken away by the last government should be restored."

Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said the case served to highlight the "scandal" of detentions.

He said that the 1971 Immigration Act had been introduced for security purposes, but its use had now become almost routine.

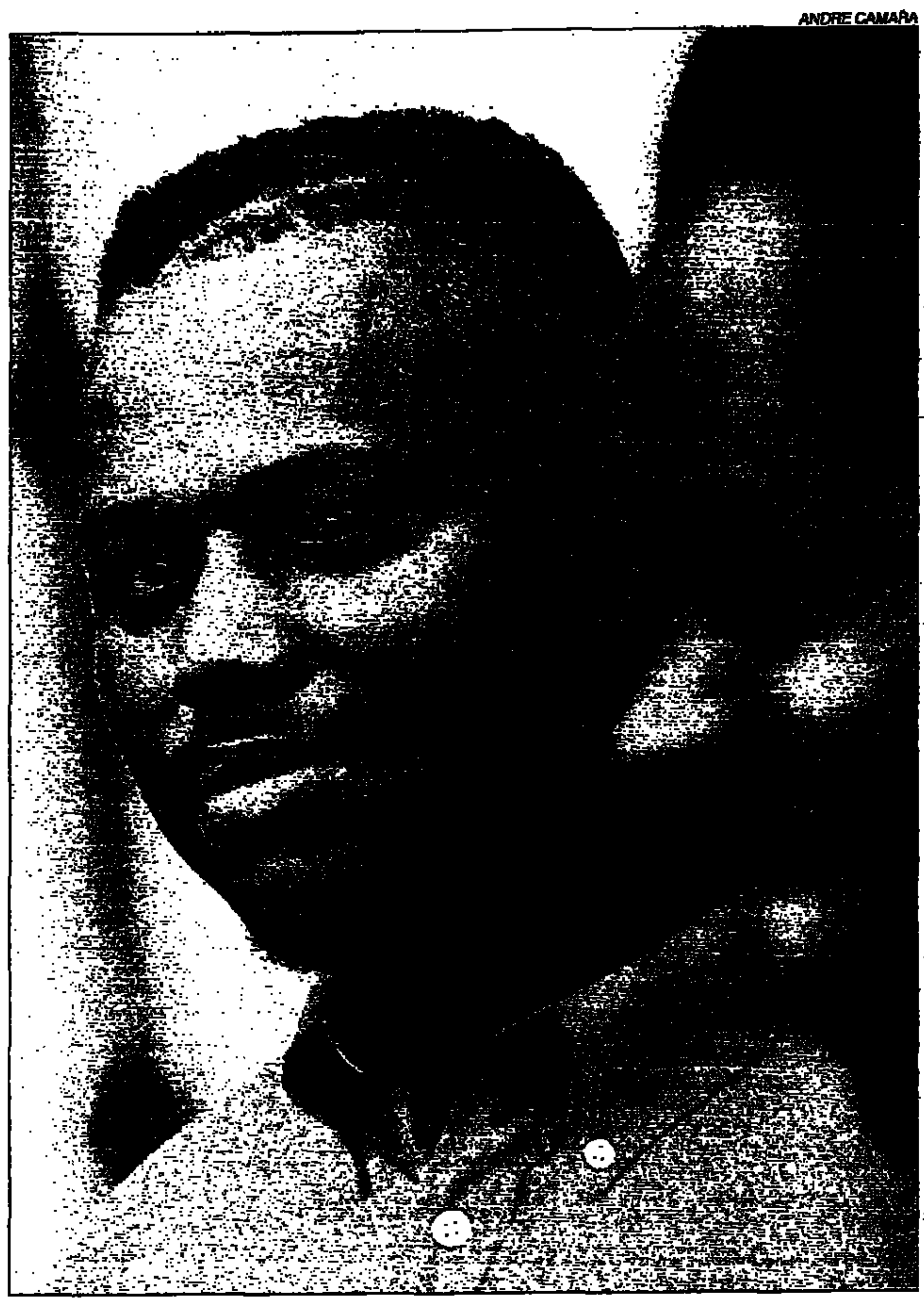
"This case is important because Britain now detains more people under immigration powers, in the Immigration Act 1971, than any other European Union country," he added.

The bulk of those held in detention centres had committed only minor breaches of *immigration rules.*

Up to 11,000 people a year were being detained by the UK, and at any one time at least 750 were being held at centres such as Campfield, in Oxfordshire, and Rochester, Kent, as well as in police cells, he said.

Detainees were not told when they would be released or given adequate medical or other treatment, he added.

ANDRE CAMARA



Peter Honegan leaves the High Court after winning his false imprisonment case

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy, 10, dies from alcohol overdose

A boy aged 10 has died after drinking from bottles of alcohol he and friends found in a carrier bag. Stephen Galloway-McGee, from Paisley, died at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow on Thursday when his mother, Margaret, made the decision to turn off his life-support machine.

Stephen, who had been declared brain dead earlier on Thursday, was kept alive on the machine until doctors carried out a series of tests to discover what had happened to him. They do not know exactly what he drank, although traces of vodka were found in his body. Stephen was found *unconscious on* Tuesday morning.

'Problem' jail praised

Buckley Hall, a privately *run* jail criticised by the Prison Service, received a glowing report from the Chief Inspector of Prisons. Sir David Ramsbotham said the decision to designate the jail, near *Rochdale* in Lancashire, as needing special management attention was "undeserved". Sir David said he was delivering a "thoroughly good report" on Buckley Hall, which is run by the security firm Group 4.

Care homes inquiry

Manchester has more children in care than any other city in Britain, a survey by the children's charity Kidscape has found. About 1,200 children aged under 17 are either in residential homes or foster homes — twice the national average. The disclosure prompted the city council to launch an inquiry. Michelle Elliott, the charity's director, asked: *"Is Manchester too diligent? Is the city over*reacting? I would be very worried about these figures."

Old Vic sale to begin

The Old Vic is to go on sale by sealed tender next week, it was announced. The Mervish Corporation, based in Toronto, acquired the historic theatre, a *Grade* II* listed building in Waterloo, London in 1982. The sale is being handled by Nelson Bakewell, a firm of chartered surveyors in the West End, who are to begin an international marketing campaign, backed by contacts from Sotheby's International Realty.

Diver's body returned

The body of a British tourist who died a week after breaking his neck when diving off a boat in Mexico is expected to arrive home today. Mark Foster, 33, from Hanwell, West London, fractured his neck in two places and lost consciousness when he hit a rock diving off a boat off Acapulco. His girlfriend, Nicola Tibby, remained at his hospital bedside and is to accompany the body home.

No reason to ban MDF

Health and Safety Executive experts investigating the health risks associated with medium-density fibreboard (MDF) said yesterday that there was no evidence so far to justify banning the product. Critics have labelled the versatile wood substitute the "asbestos of the 1990s", claiming it causes cancer, sore throats and damage to the lungs and heart.

Stalker held indefinitely

A severely mentally ill man who stalked a woman for nine years was sent to a secure unit for an indefinite period. Patrick Keane ruined his victim's life with stalking at the "extreme" end of the scale, Judge Hugh Mayor, QC, *said* at Nottingham Crown Court. Keane, of Coventry, was earlier found guilty of causing 32-year-old Gillian Johnstone grievous bodily harm with intent.

Pilot's medals at auction

The decorations and medals of Air Marshal Sir Humphrey Edwardes Jones, whose test flight of the Spitfire in May 1935 helped to pave the way for victory in the Battle of Britain, are to be sold at auction. It was his vote of confidence that led to the immediate order for the first 310 Spitfires. His decorations include the KCB, CBE, DFC, Croix de Guerre and Légion d'honneur.

Global sailor 'unfit'

A policeman who took a year out to sail round the world cannot rejoin Kent Constabulary because he has failed its fitness test. Bruce Kay, 41, who helped to crew the British Legion yacht *Pause to Remember* to tenth place out of 14 BT Global Challenge entries, believed his application would be a formality. Although 16 stone, he is three stone lighter than when he took his career break.

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The Inland Revenue's key deadline of 30th September has now passed. This means if you're required to file a Tax Return under the new self-assessment regulations, you *must calculate your own tax* liability. For most people this is a daunting prospect, but don't panic – TaxCalc 1996-97 will do the hard work for you!
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD

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Exclusive extracts from Sheila Gunn's campaign diary. News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Fears for Briton on baby murder charge

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

THERE were fears last night that the wealthy recruitment firm which hired a British teenage au pair — on trial next week for murdering a nine-month-old boy in her care — are endangering her defence. If found guilty Louise Woodward, 19, faces life imprisonment.

Her expensive defence during the eight months she has been in custody has been paid by the recruitment firm which placed her with a family in Cambridge, Massachussetts. The concern among her friends is that EF Au Pair, which recruits in Britain, is more worried about *protecting* itself from a hefty lawsuit from the infant's family than about properly defending Miss Woodward.

Today villagers from her home town of Elton, near Chester, will gather for a church service, as they have done every week since her arrest in February. They are worried that Miss Woodward will not receive a fair trial and do not recognise the figure portrayed in the American *media as one of the most* loathed people in the country. They remember her as a soft-hearted teenager who loved pop music, excelled in her academic studies and was affectionately nicknamed "Loopy Lou".

Her father, Gary, a builder, who has gone to Massachussets for the trial, said: "We believe the public mood is changing in her favour."

American prosecutors claim *that Miss Woodward* shook Matthew Eappen violently, hitting his head against a hard surface. Her case has aroused local opinion in the Boston area. According to *opinion* polls conducted by the city's newspapers, nearly 70 per cent of those questioned believe that she is guilty. She was arrested on February 4 this year after Matthew was *found unconscious with* serious head injuries.

He never emerged from his coma, dying of a fractured skull five days later. She was charged with first-degree murder. She has always denied harming the child. Forensic scientists described the extent *of the child's injuries as akin to* the results of a "fall to the ground from two floors above".

EF Au Pair, which advertises in Britain and on the Continent for teenage girls to live and work with American families, has assembled a formidable defence team, including Barry Scheck, who worked on the legal team which secured the acquittal last year of O. J. Simpson.

Legal *sources* have questioned whether there is a conflict of interest, saying that lawyers have made no attempt to show that she might have caused *the baby's death* inadvertently. The argument is powerful, and would serve to counter the charges of premeditated violence.

☐ *Additional reporting: Russell Jenkins*

HOUSEKEEPER JAILED FOR THEFT

A housekeeper who stole a fortune in jewellery from her new employer was jailed for nine months yesterday. Annette Lanigan-Ryan, 30, had been working for *Toyin* Kamgaing, of Kensington, for less than 24 hours when she found that the safe contained valuable watches and diamond-encrusted jewellery. She pocketed the £10,000 haul and snatched £600 lying near by. The police caught up with her in a casino, Southwark Crown Court was told. Lanigan-Ryan, who admitted one count of theft in *July*, was crying as she was led from the dock. Outside the court Mrs Kamgaing said that her 2½-year-old autistic daughter had been left by Lanigan-Ryan in the house by herself with the front door open.

MATTHEW WEST/REUTER

Louise Woodward's defence costs have been paid by her au pair recruitment firm

Nurses backed by businessman

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

A PROMINENT British businessman is believed to be the major contributor to the £730,000 "blood money" *raised to save the life of one* of the two nurses tried in Saudi Arabia for the murder of a colleague.

Relatives of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan who helped to solicit the cash donation last night refused to disclose his identity. The *benefactor does not have any* direct business links with Saudi Arabia but is said to be concerned about the plight of the two women.

He is believed to have been approached by a member of Ms Parry's family who explained why they believe the nurses are being unfairly held. Ms Parry could be executed under Saudi law; Ms McLauchlan has been sentenced to eight years in *jail and 500 lashes.*

The families and the Foreign Office also declined to name multinational firms that have pledged money as part of a deal to persuade Frank Gilford, the brother of the murdered Australian nurse, Yvonne Gilford, to waive the death *penalty.*

Among the companies suggested last night as possible contributors were British Aerospace, Vosper Thornycroft and GEC, who have substantial interests in the kingdom. All three declined to comment last night about any involvement.

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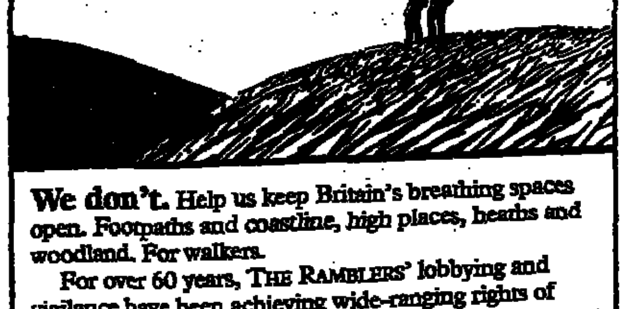

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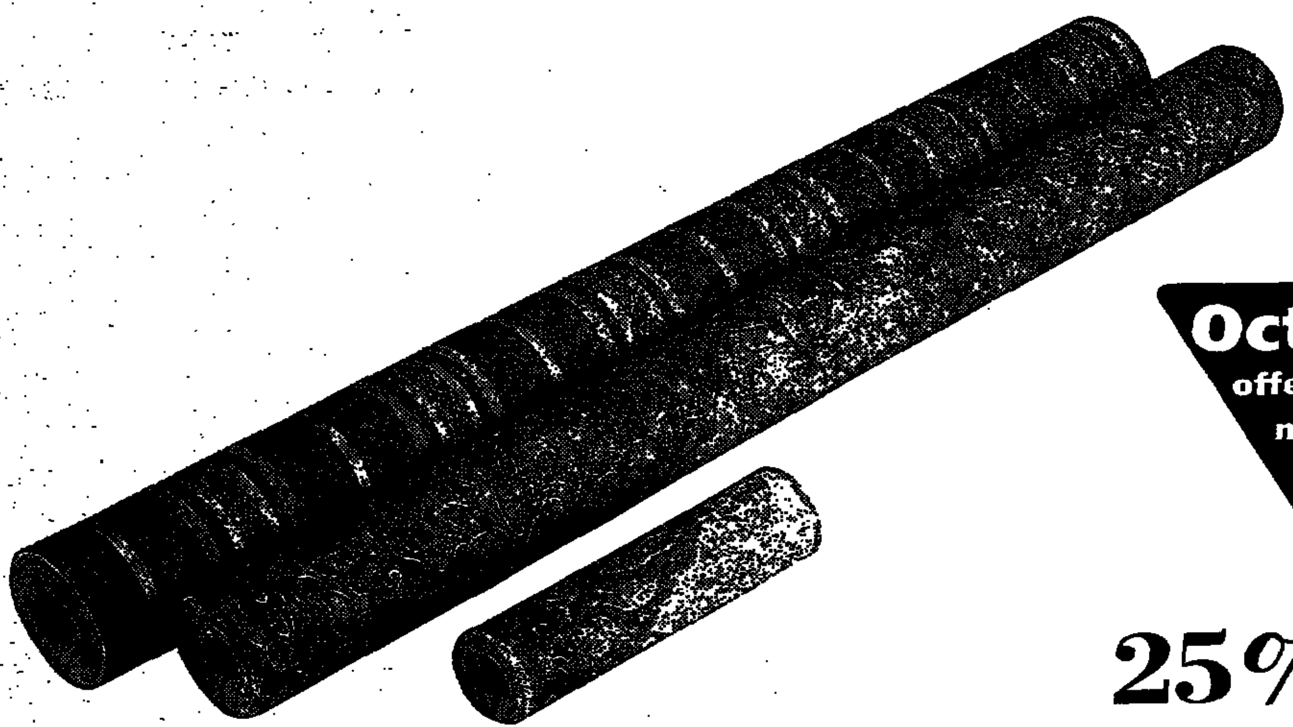

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Old guard undermines reforms

Sir Humphrey's ghost stalks corridors of Smith Square as Tory hopes of democracy look set to become lipstick revolution, says **Michael Gove**

IT WAS supposed to be the painful, but necessary, precondition of regaining power, but cynics are already calling it the lipstick revolution — a series of changes which, far from proving dramatic, are worryingly cosmetic.

When William Hague assumed the leadership of his shattered party four months ago, he promised that it was his organisational reforms which would give the Conservatives "a fresh future".

He appointed the newly elected member for Tunbridge Wells, the Asda chairman Archie Norman, to preside over a supermarket sweep through the tired organisation. But now Tory radicals are concerned that Mr Hague's revolution has been hijacked by the party's vested interests and — far from laying the ground for a fundamental relaunch — Mr Norman has been persuaded, on some of the critical issues, to put old wine in new bottles.

When Mr Norman was first appointed vice-chairman, the grassroots vested high hopes in the 43-year-old Harvard Business School graduate. One activist was impressed by his refreshingly caustic view of his colleagues' inadequacies and the poverty of genuine management skills on the Tory benches.

Mr Norman was initially incredulous when confronted with the Byzantine structure of Tory organisation and, when told the Tory Party's governing body, the National Union, had over 170 members, remarked in amazement: "One hundred and seventy! I've never been on an executive with more than ten."

After taking initial soundings, Mr Norman retreated to Scotland to prepare the first draft of his "green paper". It apparently includes several proposals which encountered little opposition and promise to meet reformist expectations.

A central membership register, an overhaul of how agents operate and a new ethics committee to deal with misconduct should, respectively, improve recruitment, sharpen election performance and combat "sleaze". It is, however, as an exercise in greater democracy that grassroots critics fear the proposals fail.

Some Tory radicals fear that such moves have been stifled by two men. Robin Hodgson is Chairman of the Tory party's voluntary wing, the National Union, and the self-styled voice of the grassroots. Grassroots agitators scent a stitch-up between Mr Hodgson and Sir Archie Hamilton, Chairman of the 1922 Committee and the Tory MPs' shop-steward. It is, according to one insider, "a classic case of the old guard mouthing support for reform and then working to undermine it".

❛ Archie Norman was incredulous *when confronted* with the Byzantine structure of Tory organisation ❜

One source close to Central Office said Sir Archie wanted to keep the right to select the Tory leader as firmly in parliamentary hands as possible, while Mr Hodgson wanted to limit any grassroots say to the old boys' network of constituency chairmen rather than opening it up to the fullest-possible participation. Between them they sought to see power remain in the hands of the men in grey suits, inside and outside the Commons, who had always been the Tory tribe's traditional elders.

Sir Archie's supporters mount an impressive traditionalist case. They argue that it is only in the crucible of the Commons that real leadership qualities can be proved and MPs have a unique insight into their colleagues' strengths and weaknesses — denied to a wider membership who may only know MPs from their television appearances.

Mr Hodgson has always argued for a grassroots voice, risking unpopularity with some in the parliamentary party, but he wants to limit a formal say to those who have proven their loyalty over time. It is the attitude, according to one activist, of a man who believes democracy is so precious it must be rationed.

One of Mr Hodgson's friends, the veteran pro-democracy campaigner Eric Chalker, argues: "Robin has made valiant efforts, but he has drawn back from confronting the leader's archaic prerogatives and the need for direct member democracy."

While Sir Archie and Mr Hodgson were considering their approach, Mr Norman set up a series of working parties to consider the nuts and bolts of reorganisation. He drafted professionals from the management consultants McKinsey's, where he and Mr Hague first met.

Brain-storming sessions were held in Mr Norman's offices in the gardens of Westminster Abbey where, over bottled Asda water, the anoraked grenadiers of the Hague revolution pored over flowcharts and consultation papers. Their research suggested that the party failed to involve its members fully and provide them with effective channels of participation. Sir Archie and Mr Hodgson apparently played the Sir Humphrey game, agreeing with the diagnosis but arguing for a minimal dose of democracy.

Now, although a "single party" is envisaged in the green paper, the new bodies within it are believed by grassroots activists to be uncomfortably close to the old structures. The new forum for the mass membership, the National Convention, bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the party establishment's plans for modest change after the 1992 general election.

William Hague has promised not to turn his back on the party grassroots while Archie Hamilton, top right, and Robin Hodgson stand accused of a "stitch-up"

Instead of being made up of the widest variety of members drawn from every level of the party, the proposed convention would be restricted to the chairmen of associations and existing grandees: the predominantly middle-aged conformists who form the broken backbone of the old party.

Democratic campaigners are also worried that the dynamic new board designed to run the single party will be worryingly similar to the existing board of management, an unsatisfactory mixture of the appointed and indirectly elected. Radicals argue the plans are nowhere near the direct one-man, one-vote election for office which an outsider would understand as democracy.

Sources sympathetic to Mr Norman argue that he has been primarily concerned to involve members in the shaping of policy, not constant internal electioneering. He has ambitious plans to reform the party's "listening wing", The Conservative Political Centre, to give a more articulate and assertive generation with many other claims on their time the chance to have their say on issues, not structures.

Mr Norman's supporters also point out that members will now enjoy a direct say in choosing the next leader. Grassroots radicals fear, however, that their say will be too small. They believe that, in return for Sir Archie's help in keeping organisational reforms to a minimum, Mr Hodgson has managed to broker a deal accepted by all the main players which maintains the MPs' exclusive right to trigger a contest and choose the candidates. It is envisaged that the new system would leave the grassroots with a minority percentage of the votes in the final rounds of any election.

Some activists fear proposals for positive discrimination to boost the number of female candidates which, while admirable in intent, would blunt the party's capacity to counter Labour's political correctness. The reorganisation is about more than just democracy, but expectations have been aroused in activist breasts.

After their unveiling, the reforms will be placed before the wider party for six months of consultation. If the hopes the radicals have vested in Mr Hague are to be fulfilled they believe the membership's concerns have to be heard and properly addressed now.

We're too old and too few, say members

By Nicholas Wood

IN THE Stockton South constituency, the remaining Tory activists are still recovering from seeing a notional 5,000 majority brushed aside as Labour won the seat with a majority of more than 11,500.

The middle-class oasis in the Labour stronghold of the North East fell to Labour on a swing of 16.1 per cent — much bigger than the national average of 10 per cent. Now it lies 165th on the list of Labour marginals — the seat the Tories have to win if Mr Hague is to secure the slimmest of overall majorities. It is a bleak prospect for local Conservatives.

Membership has plummeted, finances are slim and morale is low. The few remaining activists are an ageing band of survivors from the 1980s. The ousted MP, Tim Devlin, 38, jokes that, when he was selected to fight the seat in 1986, he was the youngest Tory in town — and he is still one of the babies of the team.

In the late Seventies the Tories controlled Stockton Borough Council and Cleveland County Council. Now they are down to just seven town councillors after losing ten wards in the 1995 local elections.

"There are no young people who want to stand for local government," says Stephen Smailes, a Conservative councillor. "We are losing the party workers. The Conservative Party is an ageing population. There are no young people coming on at 20 and 30 who want to stand.

"We have had no Young Conservatives in Stockton now for at least 15-20 years. When I first joined there was a thriving YC's organisation. We had at least 50-60 members in the early Sixties and it produced about eight local councillors.

"I am the last one of that group. I am one of the youngest in the Tory council group and I am 57."

The scale of the task facing William Hague is underlined by the membership figures for the seat — and the confusion at local level over how many of the party faithful are left.

Mr Devlin, now working as a lawyer in Brussels and far from certain to contest the seat again, estimates that membership was about 1,000 in May — down from a peak of about 1,500 in the late 1980s.

Mr Smailes is less optimistic, saying that current membership is 350-450, well down from the 600-700 in the 1980s when Margaret Thatcher was in full cry. But the treasurer's computer reveals that the local party had only 252 fully paid-up members at election time, with a further 191 since lapsed. There were 523 paid-up members in 1992.

Seasoned Tory MPs in safe seats speak of memberships of 1,500 around election time. Those in marginal seats such as Stockton South say that a membership of about 700 is the norm.

One southern Tory who narrowly lost his seat at the election said that his membership was down from about 3,000 in 1979 to 700 now. He regarded a paid-up membership of 200 as the bare minimum.

Nor are Stockton South's finances in great shape. The party's quota — the amount it should give to Tory headquarters every year — is £2,300. Last year, it handed over a meagre £350. It no longer supports a full-time agent.

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Why Major agreed to tackle gay rights

In the third extract from **Anthony Seldon**'s book he describes an encounter with Sir Ian McKellen

JAMES CALVERT-JONES

Sir Ian McKellen after his meeting with John Major at No 10. He was not surprised by the limited results

John Major's most dramatic action in discrimination came not over race, arguably the prejudice on which he felt most strongly, nor over gender or class, but over homosexuality. His liking for thoughtful, sensitive men predisposed him to form close friendships with homosexuals, only one of whom, Matthew Parris, has come out; he had none of the hang-ups about gays of many of his generation and background.

In July 1991 Major visited the Royal National Theatre to see Eduardo de Fillipo's *Napoli Milionara* with Ian McKellen. After the play, Major, accompanied by Sarah Hogg, a member of the board of the National Theatre, was invited to a supper party hosted by Richard Eyre, the theatre's artistic director. After the main course, Mary Soames, the theatre's chairman and mother of Major's parliamentary friend, Nicholas, asked McKellen to sit between her and Major. McKellen bantered good humouredly with Major, offering him assistance with voice projection on the clear understanding that, if he did so, he would not exploit it to win the election. Changing the conversation, he asked Major if he could talk to him about "a social matter" (he remembers being nervous about using the word "gay"). Major agreed, but said he would prefer to make it a formal exchange at No 10.

During the supper party Major came over to his fellow diners as warm, rather touching, but also with little idea about their lives and values. At one point in the meal the voices fell silent as Major said how pleased he was to be with them, and added that he had just met George Carey, newly installed as Archbishop of Canterbury, whom he thought "a very good chap". The company murmured responses with lowered eyes, most having a perception of Carey as anything but tolerant and broad-minded.

McKellen followed up their meeting with a letter to Major, which went to William Chapman as Home Affairs Private Secretary. Anxious for the meeting to go ahead, Chapman did not inform the Policy Unit, suspecting that they would advise against it, and, with his private secretary's tacit compliance, *sent up a* draft for Major to sign, inviting McKellen to meet him. The visit was arranged for September 24, 1991 ... McKellen began, somewhat apprehensively: "One of my favourite books is a little paperback called *The Pink Plaque Guide to London*, which identifies houses and buildings where celebrated lesbians and gay men have lived or worked. I hope it might please you to know that on the cover of the guide is a photo of this building."

At that point, he handed Major the book. Major asked, rather nervous now, why No 10 was on the cover. McKellen continued: "From the available statistics, it is likely that 10 per cent of the people currently working here are homosexual. But the celebrity in question is one of your predecessors — William Pitt the Younger. He never declared himself as gay and I wonder if the burden of his secret led him to the alcoholism which rapidly killed him. Maybe his benign ghost will hover over this meeting."

Major thanked him for the book, and explained that this was not to be a meeting at which *decisions* would be taken, but one where he could hear about the issues from McKellen so he could then discuss them with colleagues in a more informed way.

McKellen praised Major for agreeing to the meeting and for the response he had made in July when he accepted the principle of equality in the Security Service. McKellen then raised his main concerns: criminal law, the age of consent (then 21), police harassment of gays, homosexuality in the Armed Forces and abusive language in the press. He said he would like the outlawing of discrimination on grounds of race and sex in the Citizen's Charter to be broadened to include "sexuality".

McKellen thought the meeting "cordial" and found Major "a very sympathetic listener". Major, for his part, found it moving to learn more about everyday repression and harassment, but the large number of letters sent to him at No 10 about the visit were critical, rather than supportive of the *initiative*.

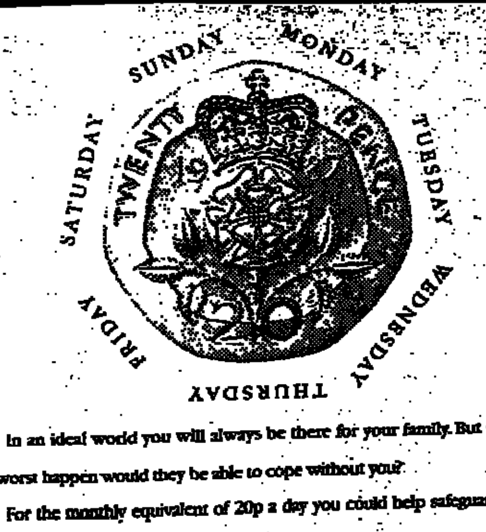
The visit inevitably disappointed the more radical gay activists, some of whom thought the visit to a Tory premier an error. McKellen was criticised in the gay press for the poor dividends from the initiative — there was not even the promise of legislation in the 1992 Conservative manifesto, which McKellen had said would be the litmus test of the meeting's value — and for his alleged gullibility in agreeing to a cynical ploy by Major to win a few more votes. Such reactions were unduly negative. Although McKellen himself thought Major sincere, he was not surprised by the limited results of the initiative.

The McKellen visit gave rise to broader hopes from some that Major would develop a right-of-centre, socially liberal agenda for the Conservative Party. Though he drew back from doing so, his instincts took him in that direction. His support for ethnic minorities was limited to early *ad hoc* interventions, such as supporting the appointment of the first Asian diocesan bishop, Michael Nazir-Ali, in Rochester in June 1994. His early enthusiasm on sex discrimination became absorbed into the policy of equal opportunities in the Civil Service and the occasional symbolic speech, as to the pressure group Policy 2000 in late 1991.

Some developments did follow: Major told his ministers to respond more favourably in their departments to representatives from the gay population; announcements were made about gays in the civil service; and he agreed to hold an age of consent debate. The gay lobby was disappointed by the vote to lower the age to 18, but recognised that it had brought the day of full legal equality at 16 closer.

● *From* Major: A Political Life, *by Anthony Seldon, to be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on October 27, £25. Times readers can buy the book for £21 by calling the Times Bookshop, 0990 134 459*

Black Wednesday: the darkest day of John Major's premiership



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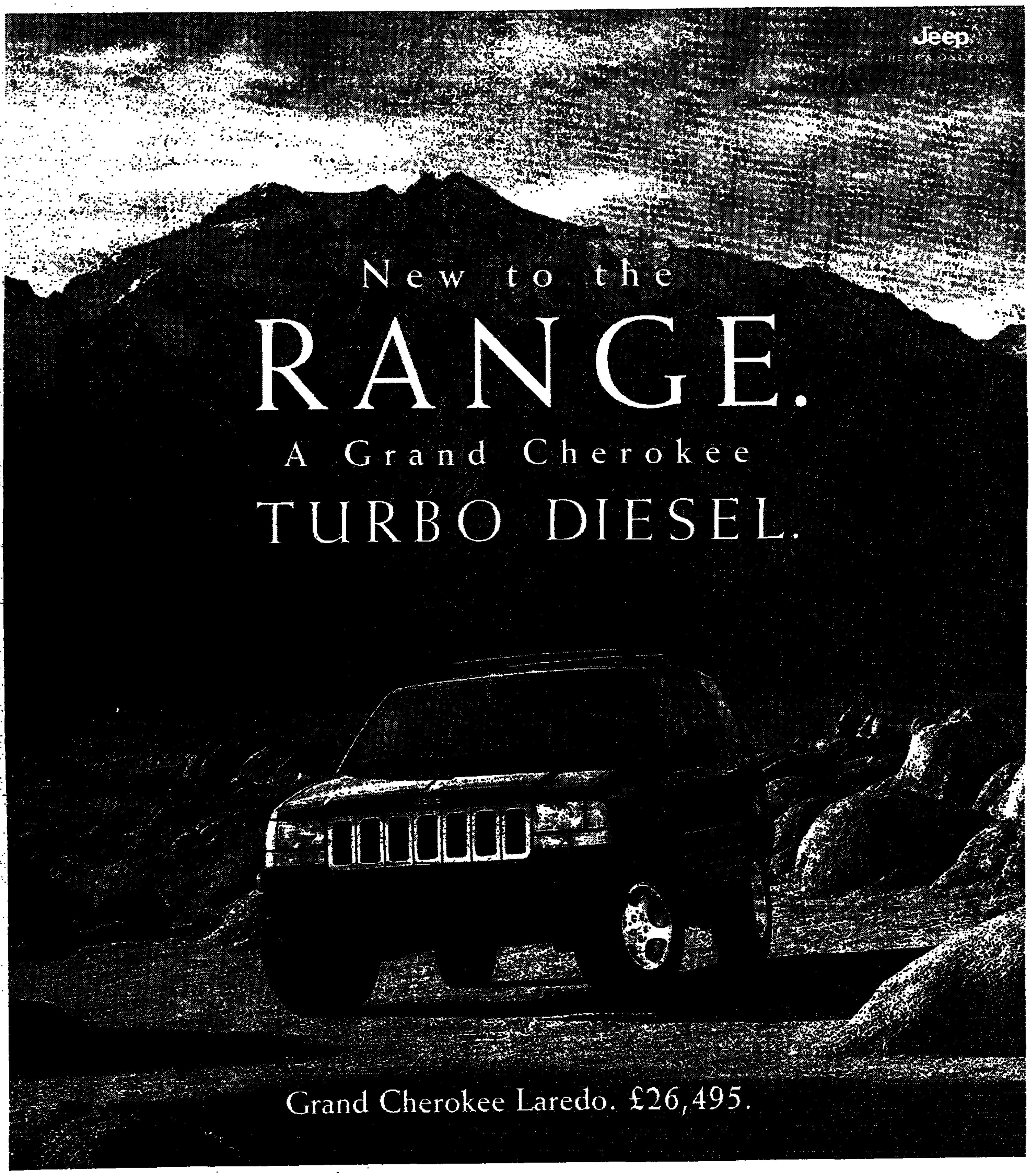

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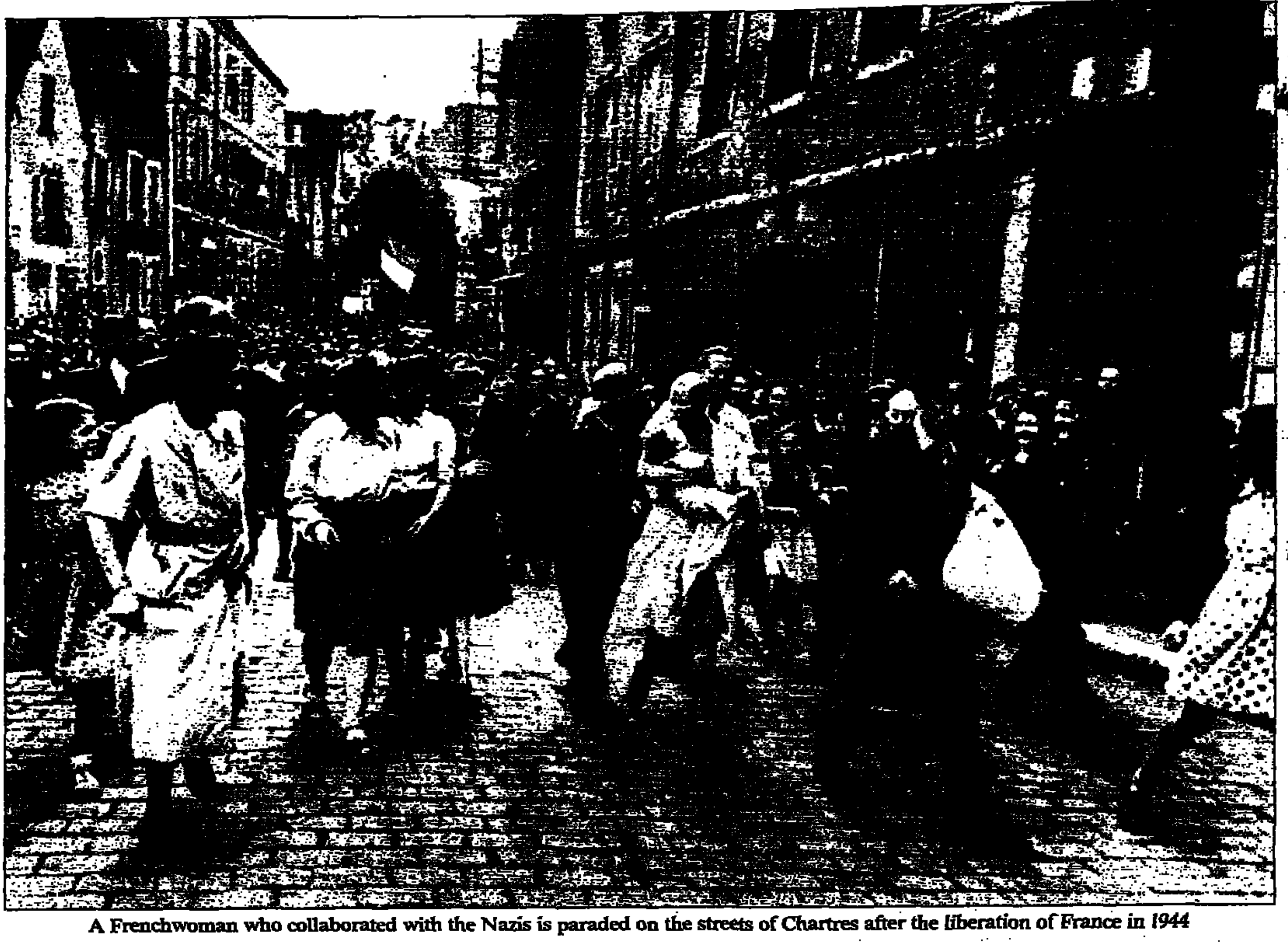
French justice set to exorcise hateful spectre of Vichy past

The trial of Maurice Papon, left, turns the spotlight on a grim saga in French history, says

Ben Macintyre

ROBERT CAPA / MAGNUM



A Frenchwoman who collaborated with the Nazis is paraded on the streets of Chartres after the liberation of France in 1944

MAURICE PAPON expected to spend his twilight years in comfort and tranquillity, basking in the glow of a most distinguished career as a former Cabinet minister, onetime Paris police chief and friend and colleague of the great and good.

Instead, at the age of 87 he is awaiting trial for crimes against humanity, accused of deporting 1,560 Jews to Nazi death camps during the Second World War. He is reviled, defiant and under permanent police guard to prevent assassination, suicide or attempted flight from justice.

Next Wednesday, after 16 years of legal wrangling, he will face his accusers for the first time in a Bordeaux courtroom to write the final chapter in a grim saga defining three distinct and uncomfortable periods in French history.

The first is the war years between 1942 and 1944 when M Papon, as the young secretary-general of the Gironde region under the Vichy regime, allegedly collaborated with the Nazi occupiers to *send hundreds of Jews* to their deaths.

The second is the postwar period, when the Vichy era was declared to be a "parenthesis", *an embarrassing* aberration best forgotten, during which M Papon was allowed to climb steadily through the ranks to become one of the *most powerful men in France.*

The third, and most telling, episode in M Papon's journey, begins next week when his alleged crimes will be placed under a legal spotlight, and with them the entire ethical conundrum of the Vichy era.

The run-up to the Papon trial has seen a flood of books, articles, television programmes and soul-searching as France attempts, belatedly, to come to terms with one of the darkest moments in its past.

Pressure for the trial has mounted steadily since July 1995, when the newly elected Jacques Chirac became the first President to admit the French state's responsibility for the arrest and deportation of more than 76,000 Jews to Nazi death camps.

That opened the blocked sluices of memory and recrimination: paintings held in the Louvre were found to have been confiscated from Jews; property owned by the city of Paris was alleged to have been stolen in the same way; a commission was set up to explore the extent of the plunder; the Government pledged to open its secret wartime archives; and finally, this week, French bishops formally admitted that the Roman Catholic Church had broadly acquiesced *in silence to the horror of* the Holocaust that took place on French soil.

Two practical factors ensured that M Papon would *become a dominant* hate figure in the urgent search for justice for the long-dead victims of Nazism and French collaboration: his longevity — many believed and hoped he would die before coming to trial — and his arrogance, for M Papon has never shown a scintilla of guilt.

His lines of defence are multiple: he was following orders he could not disobey; he is the focus of a "Communist" plot, a scapegoat for a nation's guilt, "the designated victim", in his own words. Most pertinently, he claims to have been an agent in the Resistance, although at what point and how actively will be a key issue in the trial.

M Papon will sit alone in the dock, but behind him stand France's postwar Presidents: Charles de Gaulle, who propagated the myth of the Resistance and declared in 1944: "Vichy was and continues to be null and void"; Georges Pompidou, who in 1971 insisted that France must "cast a veil and forget those times"; Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who made M Papon his Budget Minister until 1981, when evidence of his wartime role first surfaced.

But most clearly at M Papon's shoulder is the ghost of François Mitterrand, himself a former Vichy official, who admitted he had held up the prosecution of M Papon and others for years to "preserve civil peace".

The late Socialist President observed: "One cannot go on living with bitter memories and resentment for ever." But by delaying the accounting and bottling up resentment, the stage has been set for a trial by a modern jury, by individuals who did not witness that era and are untainted by its conflicting moral demands. A poll this week showed that almost three quarters of French people approve of the Papon trial. Mitterrand feared such a procedure would provoke division, but instead it has already brought an unexpected form of national unity.

M Papon is almost certainly the last alleged Vichy collaborator who will be tried, but he is also quite different from any that have gone before. He was no ideologue, still less a butcher, and there is no suggestion he was *anti-Semitic. He once* remarked chillingly: "There is no crisis of conscience when one is obeying orders".

M Papon was a remarkable *administrator*, whether enforcing the Vichy laws on Jews or rebuilding a shattered France after the war. His Nazi bosses and Fifth Republic colleagues alike commended his meticulous attention to detail. "Pleasant", "trustworthy", "collaborates with no problem" his German overseers remarked approvingly, and damningly.

M Papon does not seem to have believed in anything, except the French state. He was a zealot, but perhaps only for efficiency. "The die is cast, this is a political trial," M Papon remarked last week.

The accused man believes his fate is sealed, but so was that of the hundreds of innocent people rounded up in Bordeaux and deported to a horrible death. His trial, which is expected to last three months, may revolve around one starkly simple question: did M Papon know where the victims of his bureaucratic *efficiency were headed, and* did he care?

☐ **Adelaide:** Ivan Polyukhovich, the first man to stand trial in Australia for Nazi war crimes, *has died at 81. He was* arrested in 1990 and went on trial in 1993 charged with involvement in the murder of up to 850 Jewish women and two Jewish children in Nazi-occupied Serniki in Ukraine in 1942. He pleaded not guilty. After a nine-week trial a jury took just 80 minutes to find him not guilty. He is survived by his wife Maria and daughters Anna and Luba. *(AFP)*

A young François Mitterrand, left, held up prosecution of Maurice Papon, seen at his police prefect's desk in 1947

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Eat your greens and enjoy fruits of old age

Stores are pushing fresh produce to beat cancer, writes **Robin Young**

SUPERMARKETS have responded to the Government's latest cancer warning to meat eaters by promoting foods which are believed to provide some degree of protection from the disease.

Dieticians and nutritionists would agree that the weekend shopper's "anti-cancer" shopping list should include broccoli, sprouts, carrots, oranges and swede, recommended because of the effects of beta-carotenes which are found in highly coloured vegetables, green vegetables and fruit. If there is room in the trolley for tomatoes, marrows, *spinach*, *sweet* peppers, broad beans, fresh peas, cabbage, apples, bananas and grapefruit, so much the better.

And if the budget stretches, it would be a good idea to buy some olive oil, brazil nuts, red wine and green tea as well. Even freshly roasted coffee beans could have a health benefit, experts suggest.

A report by a Department of Health committee, to be published soon, makes fresh recommendations about the relationship between red meat and cancer. The Committee on Medical Aspects of food policy says that those eating 90 grams of red meat or more a day "should consider cutting down" and those eating more than 140g a day (equivalent to about half a pound of cooked red meat) should cut down. The 90g guideline is one lamb cutlet or a small steak, and not even as much as a quarter-pounder burger.

A third of all cancers, it is now thought, are linked to nutrition. Every year about 50,000 people in Britain develop cancer because they have unhealthy eating habits.

Most important, everyone agrees, is an increase in consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables. Researchers at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich have proved that beta-carotenes help the immune system to recognise and deal with potentially cancerous cells.

Similarly tomatoes have been singled out as a possible key to beating cancer, by researchers from Columbia and Harvard universities in America. The link is the detection of low levels of lycopene (a chemical found in tomatoes) in those suffering from lung cancer. Men eating at least ten servings a week of tomato-based foods were found as long ago as 1985 to be up to 45 per cent less likely to develop cancer of the prostate.

Though research has long established that a diet rich in fresh fruit and vegetables can significantly contribute to reducing the risk of cancer, almost a quarter of families in Britain at present buy no fresh fruit at all; 7 per cent buy no fresh vegetables.

The best foods for preventing cancer contain large amounts of fibre, such as baked beans, wholemeal bread and muesli. It is a sensible target, nutritionists suggest, to eat one pound of *fruit and vegetables every day*, and one pound of cereals and pulses. "There is definite evidence that fruit and vegetables are beneficial in protecting against cancers, particularly of the stomach, lung and large intestine," Tim Key of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said.

Stomach cancer in particular is linked to a diet low in protein, fruit and vegetables, but it is reckoned that a healthy diet could also help cut colon cancer by three quarters and breast cancer by half.

Fish, particularly oily fish such as sardines, mackerel, herring and tuna, are a good substitute for meat as a source of protein. The omega-3 fatty acids found in fish oils have long been recognised as potential aids in the battle against cancer, as have the antioxidants found in olive oil. These are believed to go some way to explaining the healthy effects of the Mediterranean diet.

For similar reasons researchers are now studying the diets of southeast Asian women in Britain, because they suffer notably lower rates of breast cancer. Red wine is now recommended in moderation because the naturally-occurring chemical, resveratrol, found in grape skins and preserved in red wine, has been found to *inhibit* the development of cancer.

The best source of resveratrol is thought to be wine made from Pinot Noir grapes, which include red burgundies. Ageing tends to deplete the wine's health-giving properties, and Pinot Noir from damp, cool climates such as France is thought *better than* wine from the hotter and drier regions of California and Australia.

THE HEALTHY SHOPPING LIST

WHAT TO BUY

Broccoli, sprouts: contain sulphorophane, found to have a powerful anti-cancer effect.
Carrots, swede, tomatoes: contain beta-carotenes, helping the immune system to deal with potentially cancerous cells.
Baked beans, wholemeal bread, brown rice, muesli: for fibre. Nutritionists suggest eating one pound of cereals and pulses a day.
Sardines, mackerel, herring, tuna: good substitutes for meat. Contain omega-3 fatty acids against cancer.
Olive oil: contains cancer-fighting antioxidants.
Red wine: found to inhibit the development of cancer.
Brazil nuts: a source of selenium, believed to help prevent activation of cancer-causing substances.

WHAT TO AVOID

Vitamin supplements: No proven value as cancer preventatives; may do more harm than good.
High-fat foods such as cheese and cream: Fatty diet seems to make it easier for cancer to develop.
Smoked and barbecued food: Linked to stomach and oesophagus cancer.
Salt-cured and pickled foods (such as bacon, pickles, chutneys): Contain nitrates which can be changed into cancer-promoting substances in the food or in the stomach.

CHRIS HARRIS

Nutritionists suggest eating a pound of fresh fruit and vegetables a day, but a quarter of families buy no fresh fruit

Coming soon, the cow with low cholesterol

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE low-cholesterol cow, a creature that will produce milk and beef rich in "good" fats that help to fight heart disease, is only a matter of years away, according to research.

Plant breeders at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth have identified a variety of rye grass which is unusually high in linolenic acid, a fat that reduces cholesterol in the blood.

The discovery could mean that milk and beef, once promoted as an essential part of a good diet but now increasingly avoided because of their high fat content, could again become favoured fare for the health-conscious.

The work, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, is part of a growing body of research aimed at modifying the food of both livestock and humans to promote greater public health without drastic changes in diet.

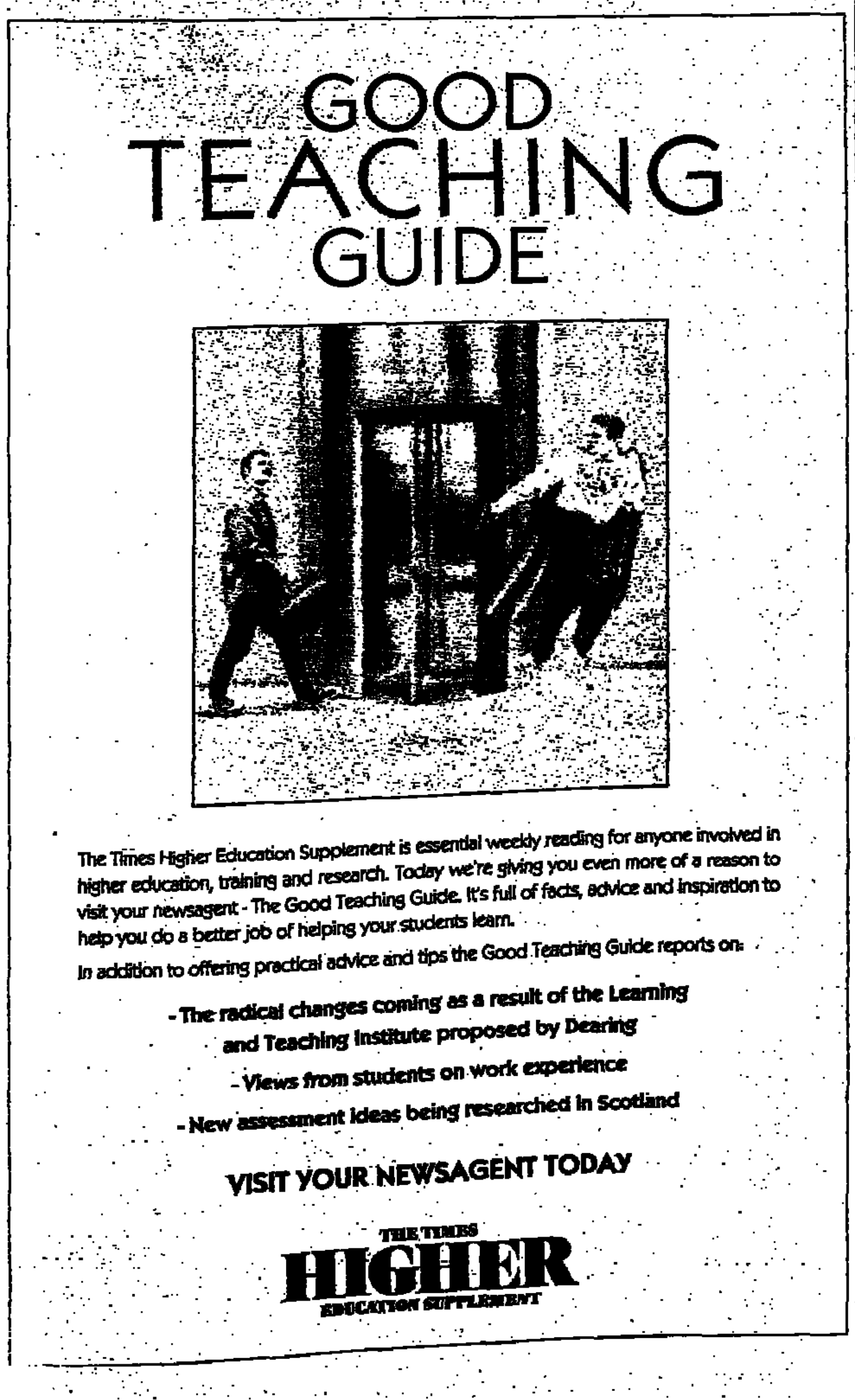
Scientists at research centres in Norwich are breeding a new type of "super-broccoli" and a new variety of water cress that are high in anti-cancer properties. The new broccoli could be on supermarket shelves in three years.

Broccoli contains relatively high levels of glucosinolates, compounds which are found in a variety of plants. Many are toxic and appear to form part of the plants' natural defence against herbivores, but scientists now believe they can be beneficial for humans.

In broccoli, glucosinolate breaks down into a substance called sulphorophane, which has been found to have a powerful anti-cancer effect. By crossing broccoli with a species of wild cabbage, researchers have achieved a tenfold increase in the amount of sulphorophane. Richard Mithen, a geneticist at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, said: "Sulphorophanes reinforce our natural defences by switching on detoxification enzymes, which mop up carcinogens, excreting them in urine before they have time to damage our cells.

"We are also breeding a new variety of watercress that is hotter to taste and high in chemicals which work in a different way by switching off other compounds in our bodies that cause cancer. The combination of the two could be very powerful."

Researchers at the centre are also using cross-breeding techniques to produce a variety of mustard plant with high levels of sulphorophanes. "This could be a good way of encouraging a regular intake of such chemicals, and help to combat the alleged cancer-causing properties of beef," he said.



GOOD TEACHING GUIDE

The Times Higher Education Supplement is essential weekly reading for anyone involved in higher education, training and research. Today we're giving you even more of a reason to visit your newsagent - The Good Teaching Guide. It's full of facts, advice and inspiration to help you do a better job of helping your students learn.

In addition to offering practical advice and tips the Good Teaching Guide reports on:

- The radical changes coming as a result of the Learning and Teaching Institute proposed by Dearing
- Views from students on work experience
- New assessment ideas being researched in Scotland

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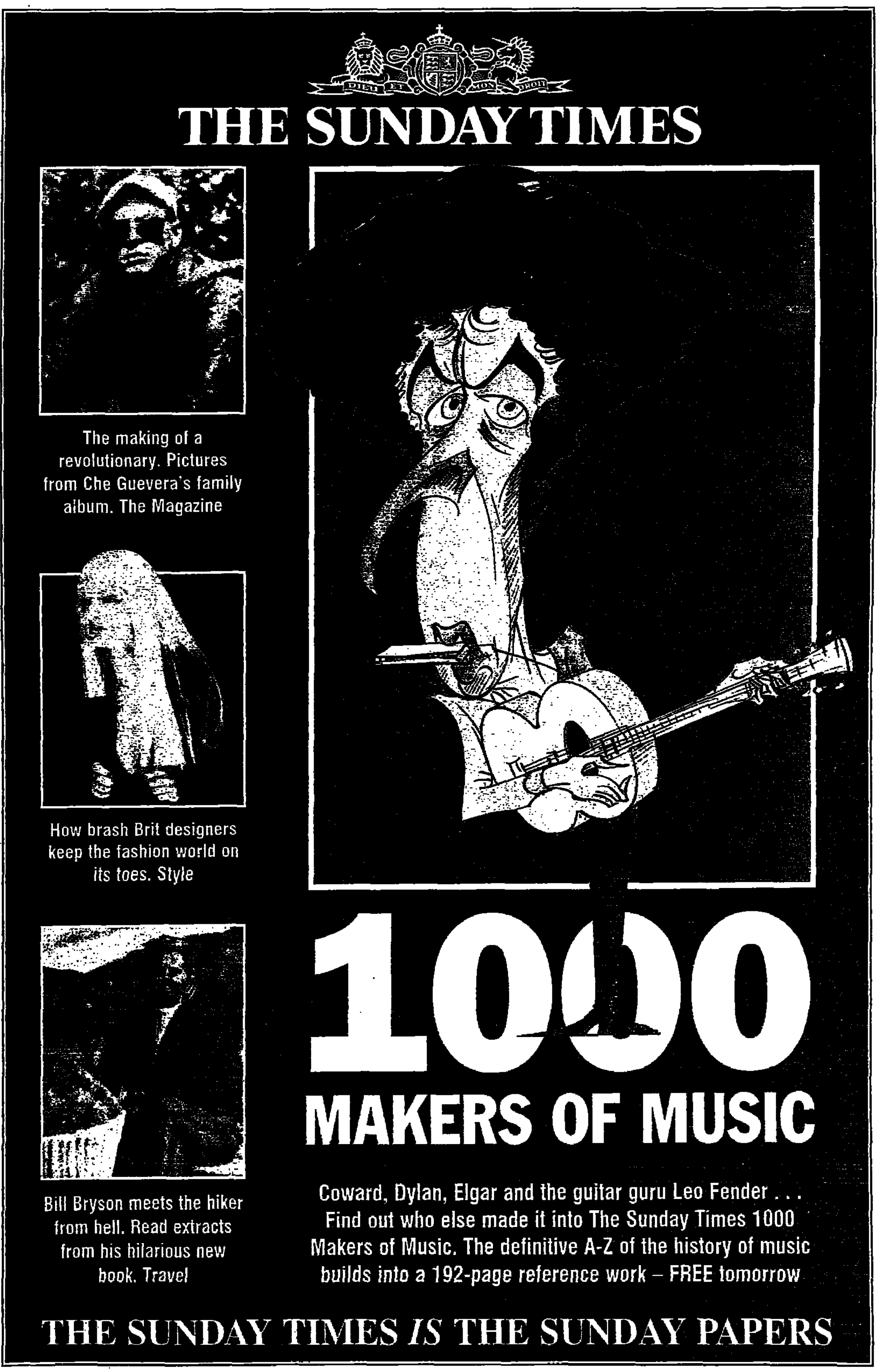

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The making of a revolutionary. Pictures from Che Guevera's family album. The Magazine

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A big fish from England makes splash on Wall St

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

NEW YORK

Maughan, a grammar school boy who made it to the top

CALL me a Little Englander, but it does warm the cockles of my meritocratic heart to note that Deryck Maughan, son of a Co. Durham coalminer, is now one of the biggest fish in the piranha tank that is Wall Street.

Mr Maughan is not a piranha himself. If the piscine analogy is to be pursued, he would be better described as a marlin: a classy, hard to catch fish, not a bruiser.

Last week he made a splash when Salomon Brothers, the investment bank of which he is executive chairman, merged with Smith Barney Inc, a Wall Street broking house. Mr Maughan, 49, will now be joint chief executive of Salomon Smith Barney, a *brand new investment* bank worth $55 billion (£34 billion).

This is a coup for the grammar school boy who went to King's College, London, on a scholarship, moving later to the Treasury. He began to run Salomon in 1991, after only eight years with the firm. Now he is swimming in uncharted waters, where the currents will be stronger and the pressures more fierce.

Some Wall Street watchers expect him eventually to be eased out. His "partner" at the helm, James Dimon, ruthless chairman of Smith Barney, is the sharpest-toothed piranha in town. It could only be a matter of time before the bank has one boss, not two.

Smart money says Mr Maughan will be that boss. After all, have not his cerebral skills, honed to perfection as a Treasury mandarin — and later in Tokyo, where he set up a successful office for Salomon — helped him to get the better of Wall Street's brashest vulgarians?

Unlike his American confrères, Mr Maughan has a humble exterior. He prefers sushi to steak and wears his dark suit to work on dress-down Friday, when brokers and traders swagger about in chinos and sweatshirts that say "Harvard". Keeping his suit spruce is Mr Maughan's *secret weapon: his wife,* Va. A Samoan lady of powerful opinions, she is not short of ambition herself.

Sources close to Mr Maughan say it is her Samoan drive that has pushed the Englishman this far. Can a man who is married to a woman who refused to let him accept a job in Tokyo unless Salomon gave them a house with a swimming pool costing $30,000 be anything less than indomitable?

Salomon shuffle, page 28

Dimon, known as the sharpest-toothed piranha in town

☐ *My friend Paulette Powell is suing her business partner for $100,000 (£62,500) and is preparing herself for a long innings in court.*

The co-founder of an academy for cross-dressers — called "Miss Vera's Finishing School For Boys Who Want To Be Girls" — she alleges that her partner, an ex-porn actress called Veronica, has unlawfully excluded her from a book-and-movie deal based on their history of training transvestites.

An off-Broadway actress, Paulette told me: "I find androgyny intriguing, so I invested everything I had. I even developed a rare technique, which uses beeswax to cover a man's beard. But now I seem to have lost everything."

Don's thesis challenges sex rules

BOOKS by feminists are seldom interesting. But I have to concede that one, just published, is as riveting as anything I have read in ages.

Called *Feminist Accused of Sexual Harassment,* it is an account by Jane Gallop, an English Literature professor at the University of Wisconsin, of the charges filed against her in 1992 by two female students.

Ms Gallop was found guilty of violating the university rule which prohibits "consensual amorous relations" between teachers and the taught. (The phrase is taken from the rulebook). Yet her book, far from being defensive, questions the basis of the charges made against her.

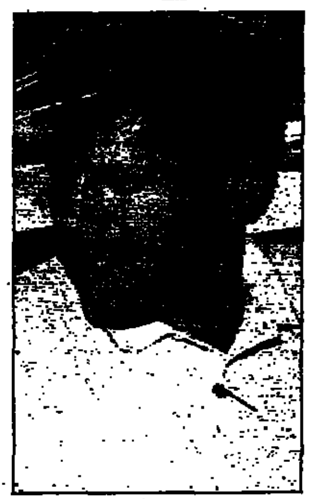
Turning on its head the conventional thesis — that professor-student sex gives the former power over the latter — Ms Gallop argues instead that such relations weaken the teacher.

As a former university don myself, I found one of her conclusions to be brilliant in its boldness: "At its most intense — and, I would argue, its most productive — the pedagogical relation between teacher and student is, in fact, 'a consensual amorous relation'. And if schools decide to prohibit ... 'amorous relations' between teacher and student, the 'consensual amorous relations' that will be banned from our campuses might just be teaching itself."

☐ *Camaje, a small restaurant in Greenwich Village run by the British chef Patrick Woodside, has acquired cult status among New York's discerning eaters-out. Not only does it offer the blessed relief of a "smoke and let smoke" policy, its menu outwits the best that New York's glitzier establishments can offer. So taken am I that I have decided that a belated Ashes dinner — hosted by some members of the British press corps for our Aussie counterparts — will take place there next week. We will eat croquettes of escargot in a garlic herb butter, followed by saddle of rabbit "pot roasted" with sautéed spinach and turnip strips.*

Calls for inquiry over Mossad plot

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



Berger: envoy recalled by angry Canada

ISRAEL is braced for a full-scale political and espionage scandal over its botched Mossad secret service operation in Jordan when public life resumes tomorrow after a break to mark the Jewish New Year.

Yesterday, as Canada recalled its Ambassador to Israel, David Berger, in protest against the use of forged Canadian passports by at least two of the Mossad team who tried and failed to assassinate the Hamas politburo chief, Khaled Masaal, calls were growing in the Jewish state for a top-level investigation.

Although Mossad special operations have gone wrong before, notably in 1973 when a Moroccan waiter was murdered in Norway after being mistaken for a top Palestinian "terrorist", security sources said that last week's bungled mission in Amman was the first in which Mossad would-be assassins had been apprehended in person.

Israeli politicians said the first question to be answered, either in public or the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, was whether the attempted killing was an officially approved mission by Mossad's special operations branch, with headquarters near Tel Aviv, or a rogue operation.

Members of the Israeli public expressed concern that the already fading image of Mossad's invincibility had suffered a severe blow. Yossi Melman, Israel's leading intelligence affairs commentator, claimed that authorisation for such an operation would only have come from the Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, himself.

Mr Melman predicted that fallout from the affair, which he described as "the most idiotic, the most crazy I can recall", could lead to the resignation of senior intelligence officials, including the recently appointed Mossad chief, Danny Yatom.

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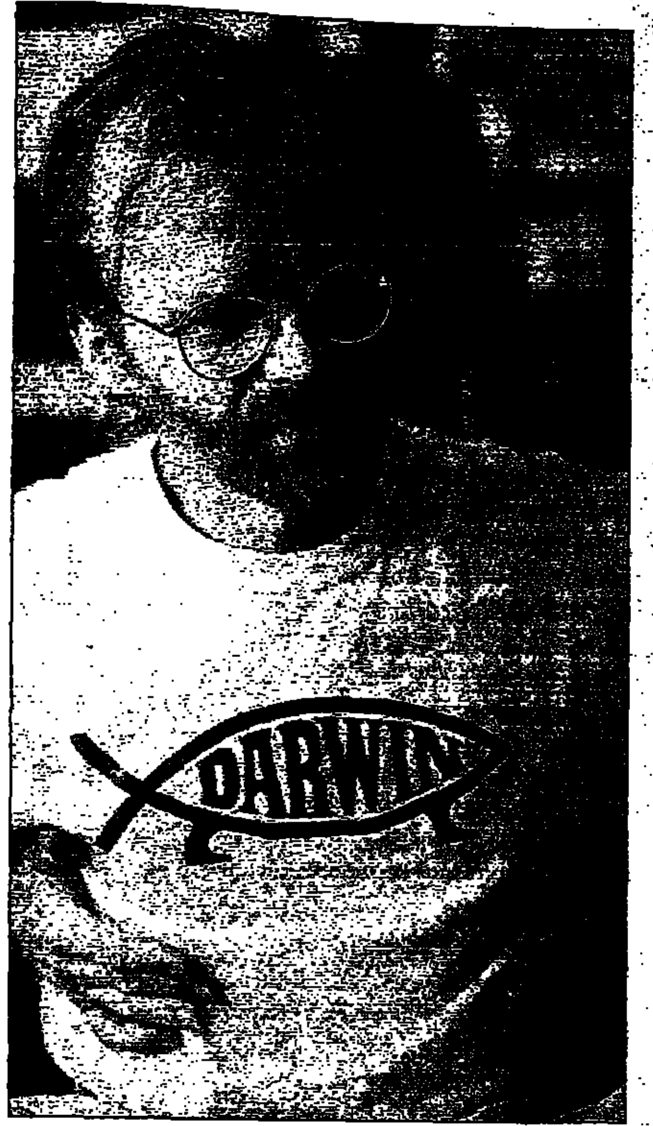
Bones put Indians on warpath

An ancient skeleton pits religion against science, says **Giles Whittell**



Chatters: "This is political correctness gone wild"

IN PLASTIC zip-lock bags, barred from view in a climate-controlled federal laboratory in rural Washington state, lie the remains of a 9,300-year-old skeleton that could transform our knowledge of how North America became populated.

A year after being discovered on the banks of the Columbia River, the bones of "Kennewick Man" are considered one of the archaeological finds of the century. Yet they remain off-limits to experts because of demands that they should be buried in accordance with Indian religion.

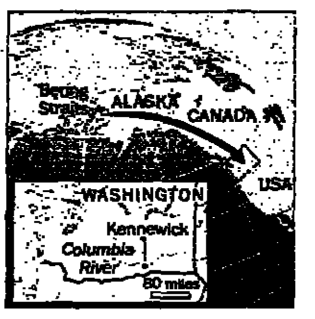
The demands have triggered a legal feud between four Indian tribes and eight scientists, who say reburial would be a loss to science and a grave injustice. Further study, they insist, could prove the bones belonged not to an Indian, but to a "Caucasoid" with European features and even white skin.

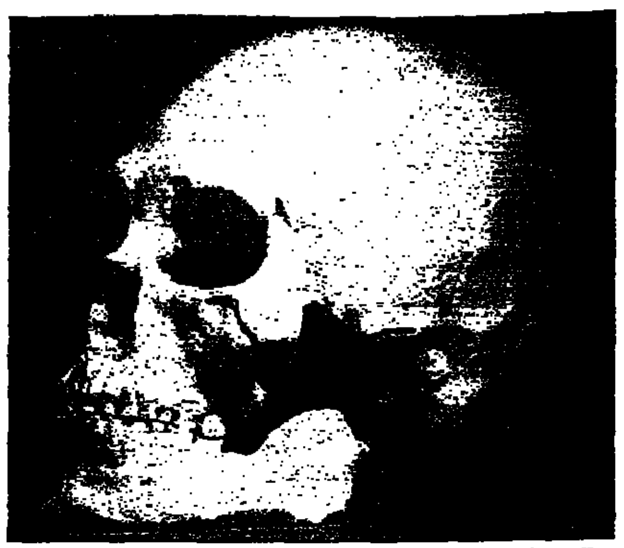
With echoes of Darwin's early clashes, the battle for Kennewick Man has pitted science against religion and politics. It has also shone a spotlight on the surging cause of Indian creationism.

"The Ancient One", as local tribes call him, was first thought to be a murder victim. Two students stumbled on his skull last summer while walking the Columbia River's edge to watch a boat race. Police alerted Jim Chatters, an archaeologist skilled in distinguishing between native and non-native American bones to ensure the former are returned to tribal leaders.

The long, thin skull with its jutting jaw was a giveaway. Mr Chatters told *The Times*: "He was very different from an Indian skeleton. I could have picked him out in a crowd in an instant."

Assuming at first that the skeleton was of a 19th-century white settler, Mr Chatters was surprised to see a prehistoric stone spearhead embedded in its pelvis. Carbon dating put the bones at over 90 centuries old, electrifying the archaeological community but bringing an urgent demand from the local Umatilla tribe for Kennewick Man to be reburied. Armand Minthorne, an Umatilla spokesman, said at the time: "Some scientists say that if this individual is not studied further, we as Indians will be destroying evidence of our own history. We already know our history. It is passed on to us through our elders and our religious practices."





Kennewick Man: a plaster cast of the disputed skull

He asserted that American Indians had occupied the continent since "the beginning of time" — not since crossing the Bering land bridge from Asia during the last Ice Age, as most scientists agree — and to accuse Mr Chatters and others of desecrating Indian remains.

Archaeologists have likened the idea of reburying Kennewick Man to the burning of the library at Alexandria. One theory suggests that Kennewick Man was descended from pan-Arctic nomads occupying the far North from Lapland to North America at a time of vast ice sheets and exposed continental shelves, 18,000 years ago.

On Thursday, elders from the Umatilla and three other Washington tribes discussed the idea of limited further testing to establish Kennewick Man's racial make-up. Should they continue to resist, the scientists have vowed to go to the US Supreme Court.

In the meantime, Mr Chatters says he has been blacklisted, threatened, and accused of racism by Indians. "This is political correctness gone wild," he said. "You can't say anything about the Indians' heritage that might differ from Rousseau's concept of the noble savage."

Leading article, page 23

WORLD IN BRIEF

Women's coaches to foil gropers

Tokyo: Police here have asked railway operators to provide carriages exclusively for women passengers to combat an increasing number of sexual assaults in crowded trains (Robert Whymant writes).

Police made the request after arresting a record number of *chikan*, who target young women in rush-hour trains. An average of 30 molesters are being caught each month, almost double last year's level, mainly due to more intensive policing, and a campaign urging women to report incidents.

Railway companies say women-only coaches were tried ten years ago but abandoned when women in mixed carriages complained they were the targets of more assaults.

Smog descends on Jakarta

Jakarta: The Indonesian capital yesterday experienced for the first time the choking haze that has enveloped much of South-East Asia for weeks. Yellow-grey smog hung over Jakarta, combining with everyday pollution. The Government revoked permits of 29 private forestry firms in a move to control forest fires blamed for the smog. But Sri Diharto, head of the country's meteorology agency, said the haze in the capital would not be as serious as elsewhere. However there was a possibility of acid rain falling thousands of miles away and many species being killed unless the haze cleared soon.

Czechs cleared of treason

Prague: The high court here cleared former Czech Communist leaders of treason for collaborating with Soviet authorities to crush the 1968 Prague Spring reforms. Their behaviour was not a criminal act, the judge said. Some 12 former party leaders were accused in 1995 of organising an abortive attempt to create a pro-Moscow government of workers and agricultural labourers which was to take power during a Soviet intervention. Warsaw Pact forces entered Prague in August 1968, ending reforms. *(AFP)*

Karadzic defies Nato order

Belgrade: Radovan Karadzic, right, wanted for war crimes in Bosnia, made a round trip from his redoubt in Republika Srpska to his niece's wedding in Montenegro last weekend in open defiance of a Nato order to arrest him on sight (Tom Walker writes). The ease with which he travels about the region may indicate a high-level agreement between Nato generals and peace forces not to arrest him until after elections in Republika Srpska.

American's trial delayed

Havana: The trial here of an American, who faces death by firing squad if convicted of promoting armed attacks against Cuba, was due to start yesterday but was postponed to an unspecified date, a US official said. Prosecutors demanded that Walter Van der Veer, 46, an unemployed Miami electrician arrested in 1996, be given the death penalty for fomenting subversion against the Castro regime. *(AFP)*

Train floats to new record

Tokyo: Japan's magnetically levitated MLX-01 train broke the world speed record for a manned train when it clocked 280.3 mph on an experimental track west of Tokyo, a Japanese railway firm said. The train, which floats on U-shaped tracks, broke the previous world record of 279.7 mph set in June 1993 by Germany's Trans-Rapid train. *(Reuters)*

Jubilant Foale heads home after four months in Mir

British-born astronaut longing to see wife and children after troubled time in space, writes **Tom Rhodes**

AS HIS shuttle back to Earth separated from the Mir space station yesterday, Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut, was clearly ready for a new adventure: free of the troubled craft, at home with his wife and two small children, and feet very firmly on the ground.

In a valedictory interview on the eve of his return, surrounded by the crews of Mir and the US shuttle *Atlantis*, Dr Foale appeared barely able to contain his excitement as he grasped a floating microphone in the vessel's core module, for so long his living room in space.

"I have been here for four and a half months — which is quite a long time to be in any one place — and I am looking forward to learning to walk again; to seeing my house, my wife, and my children. I want to get to know my wife again; date her again," he joked, "and maybe marry her again."

Since he left in May, the 11-year-old Mir station has been plagued with problems, from computer failures that left it drifting in space without heat, to a near-fatal collision in June that knocked out half the power supply and forced the crew to move from their sleeping quarters, abandoning scientific experiments and personal belongings.

In the tradition of the Nasa astronaut, however, Dr Foale made no mention of the complications, referring instead to the extraordinary relationships he has developed with the Russian cosmonauts involved in the mission. Like every other crew member, he emphasised the new spirit of co-operation that has developed between Russians and Americans on Mir, an orbiting symbol of post-Cold War reconciliation.

"Over the last two years I have learnt to be close to four people and learnt to speak a new language, which is something I never thought I would experience as a physicist studying only science subjects in college," said Dr Foale, 40, who has a PhD in astrophysics from Cambridge.

Interviewed from space agency headquarters in America, Russia and France, the ten members of the joint crew crowded around a camera. David Wolf, the American who is replacing Dr Foale and will stay on Mir until January, was in particularly jocular mood. "We just want to say to you people down on Earth, be careful down there," he said. "It's awful close to the ground and someone could get hurt."

When he touches down at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida tomorrow Dr Foale will be met by Rhonda, his wife, and their children Jenna, five, and Ian, two. There will be medical checks and debriefings at Nasa's headquarters in Houston, Texas, before the family take a windsurfing holiday in Mexico. "But my priority for the next year is my family and children," he said.

Foale takes a last look round the space station

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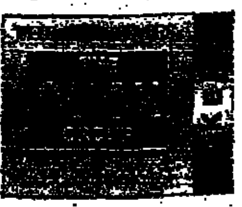

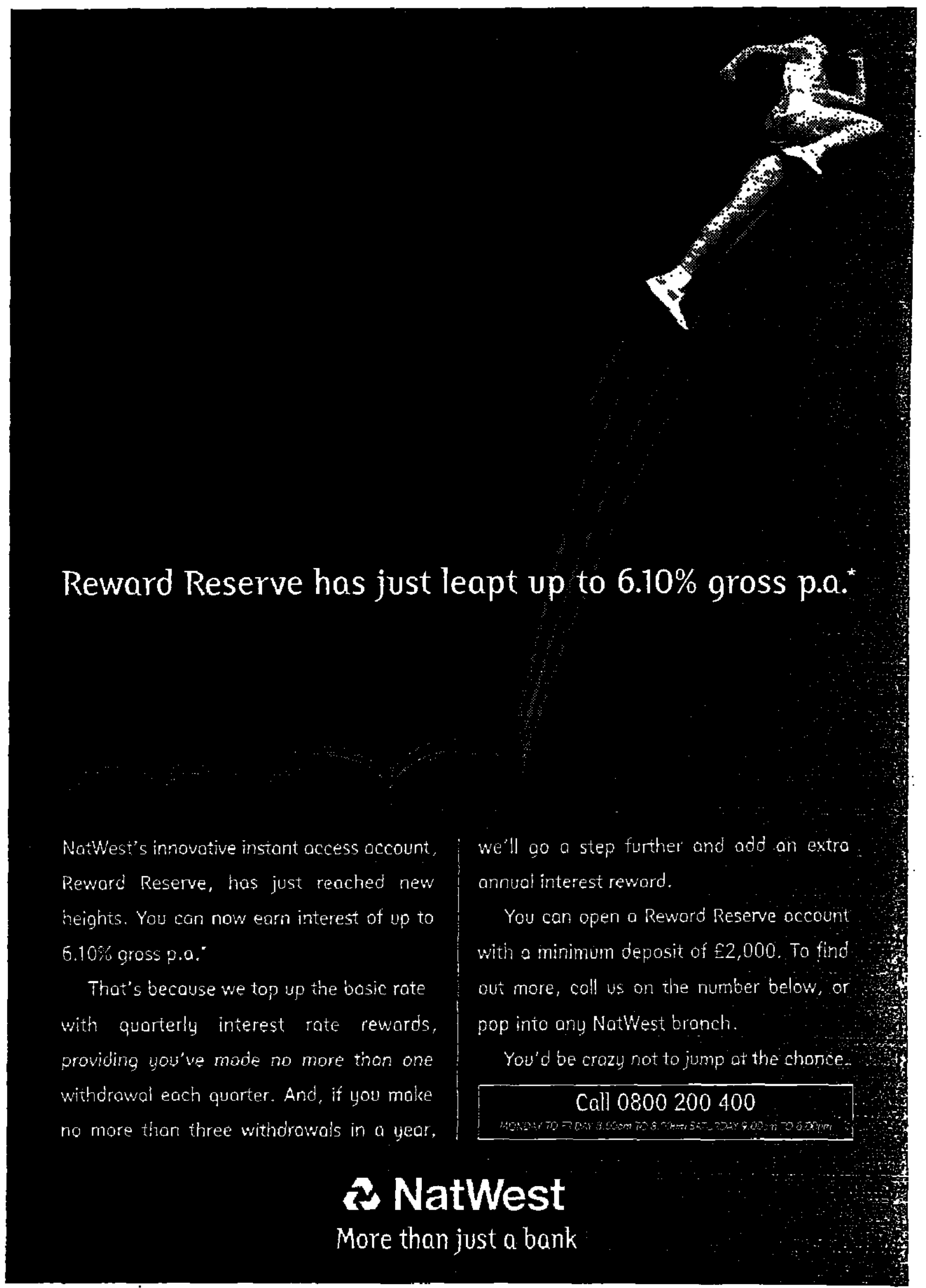

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Child abuse victims tell horrific tale

The inquiry into children's homes in North Wales has been hearing survivors' evidence. **Alan Franks** reports

Week in and week out since the start of the year, a story of horror has been pieced together in the North Wales village of Ewloe.

It tells of young children in care being systematically assaulted and sexually abused: of suicide by those who had suffered beyond endurance: and of social services departments with a pile of unanswered questions.

Young men and women come forward and tell in low voices how they were abused 25 years ago in the children's homes of the region. One of them recalls the visits to the boys' dormitory by a male member of staff, who would call out the name of a boy. An hour later the child would return sobbing to bed.

A woman describes how she saw a boy being sexually assaulted by a teacher, and how she herself was hung by her ankles from the top-floor window of her foster home. Another remembers a friend being locked in a cupboard for days without food.

On and on it goes, one testimony after another, until cruelty and abuse begin to sound as if they are the natural lot of childhood. However, the theatre in which this grim drama grinds on is unique. It is a tribunal of inquiry into alleged abuse in more than 30 North Wales homes since 1974. This legal machinery, set up by Act of Parliament in 1921, is potentially one of the most thorough means of investigation available.

It was used after the Aberfan disaster and the Dunblane massacre, and on only a handful of other occasions. But never, until now, for child abuse.

By the time this tribunal is through, it will have taken evidence from some 300 survivors of abuse, and from about half that number of alleged abusers. It now looks set to run well into next year, at an estimated cost of up to £10 million. In an impassioned address at the outset, Gerard Elias, QC, counsel to the tribunal, said that if it was shown that abuse took place on the scale feared, then members of the social services must have been careless of the children's plight or else were deliberately closing their eyes.

Separately from the tribunal, a few of the guilty men have already been convicted, and are serving prison sentences. There was John Allen, who accommodated delinquent boys in a farm near the Welsh border and raped some of them on a regular basis. He was given six years. There was Peter Howarth, former deputy headmaster at Bryn Estyn, one of the four homes featuring most prominently in the stories of abuse.

He and his colleague Stephen Norris became notorious for their paedophile orgies. Norris has served six years of a seven-year term: Howarth died earlier this year of a heart attack in his cell at Wakefield.

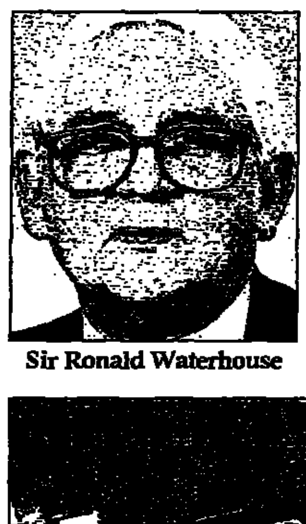
If there is any aspect of the tribunal as depressing as the sheer relentlessness of the abuse, it is the recurring sense that some of the abusers are victims themselves, passing on the very behaviour that scarred them as youngsters. This week it was the turn of a paedophile who has served three prison terms to tell the tribunal how he was sexually abused as a child.

For many his testimony, and that of fellow offenders, is a frustrating business because of the anonymity that has been ordered. It is an offence to identify anyone by or against whom an allegation of abuse has been made.

The exceptions are those who have been convicted of criminal offences of physical or sexual abuse of children in care. And so the irony persists: an inquiry convened to shine light into the darkest corners, proceeding through a gauze of anonymity. This is perhaps one reason why the tribunal has not attracted more attention. The press gallery remains empty, and the public seats sparsely occupied.

Increasingly, the victims are placing their hopes less in what happens during the tribunal than after it, when the chairman, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, is expected to publish a report complete with the identities of the abusers. Anyone entering the chamber for the first time discovers a small army of barristers and solicitors, with the whole operation overseen by Sir Ronald, a former High Court judge. It has the same power as a High Court to compel the production of documents and enforce the attendance of witnesses.

And yet, for all the appearance of a court of law, for all the eager cross-examinations, there are no charges. No one is on trial. Sited in the large modern building of Flintshire council offices and with the slow sprawl of the matter in hand, the proceedings can take on the air of a public inquiry. Without close precedent, the assembly at Ewloe is like some Truth Commission, convened in the backyard of a corrupt but vanished regime.



Sir Ronald Waterhouse

MALCOLM CROFT/PA

The former Bryn Estyn boys' home at Wrexham, one of four homes featuring prominently in the stories of abuse being heard by the tribunal

The inquiry team at Ewloe, presided over by Sir Ronald, circled. His report is expected to identify the abusers

Outside, a small spaghetti junction sorts the busy border traffic. If the motorist blinks he misses the village, rather as the nation misses the tribunal there.

Sir Ronald, 71, has had lighter roles than this. In 1989 he presided over the Ken Dodd tax trial. He cherishes a *Sun* cartoon of him leaving the court with a tickling stick.

A former Holywell Grammar School boy, his local provenance is a constant feature at the tribunal. A London lawyer stumbles over the pronunciation of Froncysyllte, and he helps him through.

If Sir Ronald's brief is broad, so his task is awesome. One of the targets of his inquiry will be the social inspectorate of the Welsh Office which, according to an unpublished report, carried out no inspections of children's homes in Clwyd during the years in question. Another is the alleged practice by local authorities of suppressing the findings of abuse investigations under pressure from insurance companies fearing claims by former residents.

From some of these former residents there can be no fear of further action. Two of Howarth's former sex victims at Bryn Estyn, Simon Birley and Peter Wynne, have hanged themselves.

Meanwhile, the tribunal continues to piece parts together, like a dot-to-dot face which no one wants to recognise. For in the new, giving Britain of 1997, here is another country where desolate boys and girls became paedophiles' toys; where sex abusers managed time and again to get themselves into positions of responsibility over children; where a boy was so violently raped that he bled for days and kept flushing his pants down the lavatory for shame and fear.

The charity Action on Child Exploitation makes the topical point that fewer than half of Britain's worst sex offenders have complied with the Government's "paedophile" laws which require them to register at police stations.

"It is appalling to think it happened on such a scale," Derek Bellis, a freelance journalist who has been at the tribunal every day and who has worked in North Wales for 40 years, says. "It's a sobering thought to think that while it was all going on we were busy covering the council meetings and football matches."

MAN SAYS THREATS HAVE MADE HIM TOO AFRAID TO NAME HIS ABUSER

Witnesses' deaths hamper inquiry

William Hague knew he risked a major scandal in the Establishment by ordering the country's biggest inquiry into child abuse (Dominic Kennedy writes). As Welsh Secretary, he discussed with his most trusted lieutenants the dangers of political fallout.

The tribunal has set out to discover whether there was an organised paedophile ring and if public figures were involved. Yet the truth may be elusive. At least 12 children formerly in care homes covered by the inquiry are already dead. One witness, who alleged that policemen used him for sex, has complained of a campaign of intimidation including the destruction of his home and repeated harassment.

When Mr Hague discussed the issue with his junior ministers, they had heard rumours that a senior politician was linked to paedophile activity in Wales. They believed his name might emerge during the hearings. The man was a prominent figure in another political party. A source said: "It was basically decided that it wasn't a problem for us. The Prime Minister [John Major] hated [the rival politician] anyway."

At the start of the tribunal of inquiry, Gerard Elias, QC, counsel to the tribunal, disclosed that names "well known to the public" had been put to the police, during their 1991-92 investigation, as members of a paedophile ring. The police state they found no substance to the allegations.

During the inquiry, Mr Elias put the surname of a senior politician to a 34-year-old witness who gave evidence for nine days. The witness said he had been sexually assaulted by 49 people.

Mr Elias: "Does the name —— mean anything to you?"

Witness: "Yes, sir."

Mr Elias: "In what context?"

Witness: "I was also abused by him sexually."

Mr Elias: "What was his name?"

Witness: "I'm sorry, sir. That's all I'm saying."

Mr Elias: "Was the abuse physical or sexual?"

Witness: "Sexual."

Sir Ronald Waterhouse [tribunal chairman]: "Could you explain why you are unwilling to give any more detail in relation to that person?"

Witness: "Yes, sir. Because when [a magazine] printed an article and linked me with [surname] and other people my house was destroyed, my car was destroyed and I had numerous threats and I am not taking any chances any more. The police weren't willing to do anything."

Mr Elias: "Who told you his name?"

Witness: "I'm not saying sir. I'm not trying to be awkward. I would like to tell the tribunal the full story to stop it happening again, but I've been banging my head against a wall for years. I've made numerous complaints to police."

The earliest public allegation that a gay paedophile ring led from children's homes to the doors of Parliament was made by Angus James in the satirical journal *Scallywag*. He too is unavailable to give evidence. He was killed in a car crash in Cyprus last year shortly after Mr Hague announced the inquiry. The St Pancras Coroner recorded an open verdict.

The deaths of so many potential witnesses is one of the disturbing elements of the affair. Some of the most chilling evidence has come from beyond the grave, including statements made by six men who died after telling police in the early 1990s about abuse in the Bryn Estyn home in Wrexham.

A total of four former residents of the children's homes have hanged themselves, two took overdoses, one died of solvent abuse, another of alcohol abuse, one was found dead in a car and another died of a fit in his impoverished flat.

A fire at a party in Brighton in 1992 killed five people including Adrian Johns, 32, one of at least three former residents of Bryn Alyn children's home at the gathering. An inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

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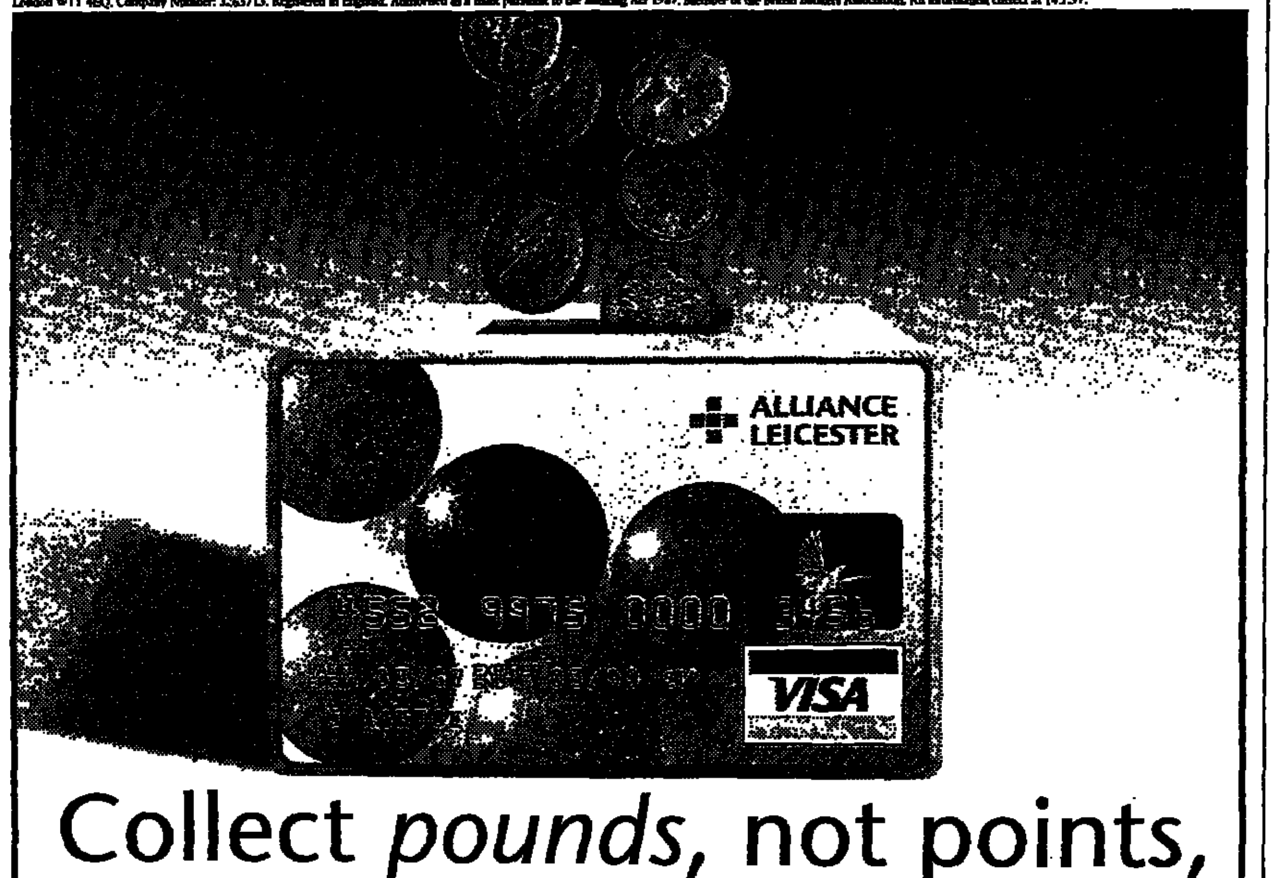

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The art of retiring in style

Earl Gowrie reveals the 'ignoble' story behind those bow-ties as he tells why he is stepping down as Arts Council chairman

KIPPA MATTHEWS

Earl Gowrie: laying down his crown with a careworn look in his eye after struggling with crisis management caused by the allocation of lottery money

Whoever takes over from Earl Gowrie as chairman of the Arts Council, it is unlikely to be another unpaid artistic grandee. But let us pause to consider how well suited to the job he was. Coming from a crumbling Irish dynasty, he knows exactly how it feels to inherit titles and beautiful estates which you haven't the money to maintain. Like the Arts Council itself, suffering from what he calls "lottery feast, revenue famine".

Gowrie has not resigned, of course. He is merely stepping down three months early. The upfront reason: the job has been taking up too much of his time, 35 hours a week, "long days of crisis management," caused by the mad situation with the lottery money. "We are allowed to replace the bath, but we're not allowed to replace the plug," he says graphically. "So you sit there surrounded by gold taps, with water flowing out, and major companies all over Britain trading on the verge of bankruptcy."

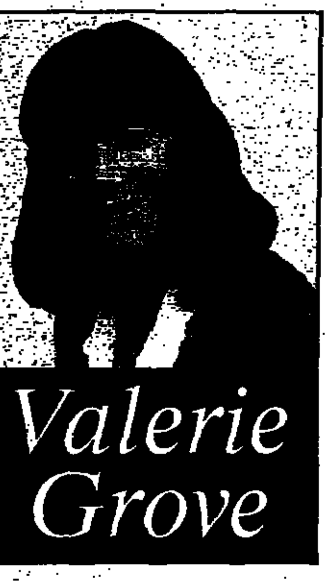
Alexander Patrick Greysteil Hore-Ruthven, second Earl of Gowrie, known as Grey, was kindly giving me a long tutorial in the Tate Gallery Restaurant on the Arts Council's turbulent summer. Next day, by telephone, he insisted on repeating certain quotes at dictation speed. I marvel that quangos ever get anything done.

Despite being "an unreconstructed Thatcherite dinosaur" Gowrie has been on friendly terms with the new Government. "When people were saying to Blair, 'When are you going to sling out this chap Gowrie and get one of your own people?' a message came to say he was perfectly happy with me." And at a dinner during the Labour Party conference, Mark Fisher "flattered me beyond my desserts". He gets on with Chris Smith better than he did with Virginia Bottomley.

However, Smith asked for an independent report on the heavily criticised Royal Opera House grant. Gowrie commissioned the lawyer Edward Walker-Arnott, who "has given a clean bill of health to the award and its supervision by the Arts Council. I am obviously relieved." He adds: "We also asked the admirable Mr Walker-Arnott to take a similarly independent view of our relationship with the Royal Opera House. Here he has been critical of both our organisations. And I believe there are useful lessons to be learned for both."

When grilled by the House of Commons select committee inquiry on the Opera House grant, Gowrie was commended by Gerald Kaufman for his frankness. On Thursday night on *Newsnight*, asked whether it wasn't rather odd that two top executives of the Arts Council, which gave the lottery award to the Opera House, should then go and work there, Gowrie agreed it was "unfortunate". He was "uncomfortable" — although he had nothing to do with it.

Losing Mary Allen to the Royal Opera House in May was a personal blow to him; they had been a good double act. "Well, it's a human right to take another job," he says, "but it caused us great difficulties, and a certain amount of bewilderment and discombobulation to me." When he met Chris Smith at the Edinburgh festival they agreed on April 30 for his departure.


Valerie Grove

What propelled the announcement forward this week was the Government's decision to advertise Gowrie's post, so that his successor — possibly salaried for the first time — can sit on the panel which chooses the new chief executive. Gowrie thinks this is sensible: he had a rough time with gibes about "jobs for the boys". "Well, fair do's. I'm the wrong background for populism."

Grey Gowrie comes from an altogether other land and time, brought up largely by Edwardian grandparents. When his father died in the Western Desert, he and his mother and brother embarked on a peripatetic existence, staying at stately homes where Grey became acquainted with fine pictures and furniture. His mother, Pamela Cooper, described in her autobiography, *A Cloud of Forgetting*, her precocious, gregarious son who wrote poetry and was always falling in love.

In his day, most Etonians were sweaty-socked bloods whose idea of art was sporting prints. Luckily he found a twin soul in Heathcote Williams, the poet, who also knew about Jackson Pollock — and David Sainsbury, who had personally inscribed Henry Moores.

In his Eton photographs he looks darkly dashing and Byronic: "I always looked foreign." He explains that some Irish are Phoenician types, who came from the Lebanon 4,000 years ago via Spain and the Armorican outlands, "hence the Sicilian looks you see in Glasgow and bits of Ireland". Having learned to tie an elegant bow-tie in Pop, he made it his trademark. "It's a very ignoble story. I was very ambitious when I joined Ted's Government, and I said to myself I must get noticed. So I adopted a few trademarks. I would be extremely indiscreet and frank with the press, and I took up bow-ties. But only the floppy ones by Saint-Laurent, not clip-on, tight-assed ones."

As a lanky 15-year-old, he inherited his title and a beautiful house, Castlemartin, which he eventually had to sell to Tony O'Reilly. Having met his first wife, Xandra (mother of his heir, Brer Ruthven), when he taught her at school, in 1974 he married Adelheid, Grafin von der Schulenberg, known as Neiti, whose father was killed for plotting to assassinate Hitler. They bought the house of their dreams in Ireland, and had just done it up, when Gowrie became Mrs Thatcher's Northern Ireland minister, his "most interesting and most awful" job in the era of hunger strikes. They had to sell the house, which now belongs to Ronnie Wood: "I'm an old Stones fan."

One of his hobbies is book-reviewing. Next Thursday is National Poetry Day and he was reviewing Ted Hughes's anthology *By Heart: 101 Poems To Remember*. Gowrie (a former Eng Lit academic) reels off for me the poems he recites for charity: Pope, Auden, Yeats, Larkin and recites Robert Frost's *Never Again Would Birds' Song Be The Same*.

When he stepped down as Arts Minister, he made his famous claim that £33,000 was not enough to live on in central London: reasonable, if you add the phrase "in the manner to which I am accustomed". Becoming chairman of Sotheby's made him no longer penniless.

At this valedictory moment, he feels he has got the message across about seedcorn investment in the arts, from which comes enormous revenue "as people like Cameron Mackintosh will testify: without the subsidised theatre he wouldn't have *Les Mis*. And the new Government recognises this. Terrif. Not a peep from Earl G." By next spring, his Arts For Everyone initiative will have delivered access to a major cultural centre, "exciting enough to tempt them orf their backsides from the telly" for 87 per cent of the population. And by then, new legislation should resolve the lottery feast/revenue famine. "The lottery should be an organism, not a monument."

His game plan then is to major on his chairmanships — a profitable office property company, and a cutting-edge audio group (he is an audio freak who will spend £6,000 on a car but £35,000 on a gramophone). More interestingly he might write a portrait of the most fascinating women he has known, including Baroness Thatcher, Mariga Guinness, Mary Allen, Diana Brooks, head of Sotheby's. "I like working for and with women. They have been my closest friends." Today finds him staying with Dru Heinz on Lake Como, chairing one of her *conversaziones*. "Next spring," he adds, "this unsuitable old person will chair one on Erotica."

So the curtain comes down on the the languid, cultivated, well-connected Old Etonian as patron of the arts. As a child, Grey Gowrie lived in a tower by the Norman gateway of Windsor Castle. When Their Majesties came to call, the sailor-suited Grey took a long look at George VI and asked "Is your crown very heavy?" Gowrie's Arts Council crown has been heavy and thorny, and he lays it down with a careworn look in his eye.

Study in terror has new force

ONE of the first questions raised by the Royal Opera's new production — outstanding in every respect — of Britten's psychodrama is whether it could be written today. In that age of innocence nearly half a century ago, the action could be presented as a straightforward battle between good (the Governess) and evil (the ghosts), with good triumphing in the end.

We have moved on since 1954, and our perception of the relationship between children and adults has changed. One can imagine any number of reasons for Britten feeling unable to compose this terrifying study of the impact of grown-ups on developing minds in the way that he did.

In negotiating this minefield, Deborah Warner's production is even more open-handed than Britten and Henry James. The set is the Barbican stage, and the way that the two children enter from the orchestra pit, gaze in wonder at their surroundings and are then responsible for most of the scene-shifting establishes a discreet distancing device that makes the action more-or-less bearable. There is nothing macabre about the ghosts: they are people who may, or may not, be dead.

OPERA

The Turn of the Screw
Barbican

Flora, Miles and the Governess

We realise that the Governess is highly strung at her first appearance, but she is not the destructive hysteric proposed by some revisionists. What Warner establishes beyond doubt is that the orphans are the protagonists and the victims; she tells the story from their point of view.

Within this comparatively sober dramatic framework there are — thanks also to a superb cast — moments of terror such as I have seldom experienced in the theatre: Ian Bostridge's exquisitely sung Quint, so casual, so sardonically confident, cooing his version of a world of imagination into Miles's ear as the child thrashes around in sleep; Vivian Tierney's Miss Jessel holding Flora in a tight, loving embrace whose forcible disruption suggests untold tragedy on both sides. For all her homeliness, Joan Rodgers's Governess, sung with rare beauty of tone and insight of phrase, could never be a parent, any more than Quint could (or should) be, and there is that nagging, prying side to her.

Casting the ten-year-old Pippa Woodrow as Flora (the role is usually taken by a mature soprano) is a masterstroke: she becomes Miles's equal rather than a faintly embarrassing adjunct, her tragedy in life as shattering as her brother's in death. She and Edward Burrowes's Miles catch the equivocal nature of the children to perfection: how many of what the Governess perceives to be Miles's challenges are in fact desperate cries for help?

Jane Henschel's comfy, roundly sung Mrs Grose is as near as we get to a rock of normality, and Colin Davis conducts his band of 13 soloists with an unfailing ear for timbre and pace: the beauty of the music, its sinister undertones and its faultless dramatic shape are all there.

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Blair's right to take the high ground

Jonathan Sacks applauds the Prime Minister's biblical politics

Political commentators have searched, so far largely in vain, for the sources of Tony Blair's political philosophy. Several gurus have been wrongly identified — Amitai Etzioni on community, Will Hutton on stakeholding, Anthony Giddens on modernisation. Each of these has a family resemblance to *Blairism, but no more.*

As I was listening to the Prime Minister's speech on Tuesday, the pieces fell into place. I suddenly recognised the influence of perhaps the oldest political text of all. It was the Hebrew Bible.

It was not just the several allusions in the speech, though I liked the adaptation from the Book of Job: "What the people give, the people can take away." It was the entire framework of values and priorities now beginning to take shape as a coherent and surprisingly ambitious political vision.

The biblical concept of society is based not on contract but on covenant. People enter into contracts for mutual gain. They enter into covenants out of a sense of reciprocal altruism. Covenants are about duties *rather than rights. They* emphasise the common good rather than individual benefit. *The key words of biblical* politics are compassion (*hesed*) and social justice (*tsedek*). *The basic social unit is not the* State but the family, which is the best distributor of welfare, *the most active agent of socialisation*, and the most powerful transmitter of values from one generation *to the next.* Family breakdown is the prelude to social disintegration.

One of the highest biblical values is education. For almost 2,000 years, Jews created communities built around schools. Their heroes were teachers and the educational budget was always the first item of communal expenditure. Knowledge is essential to the development of individual dignity. It is also power, so that equal access to it is the first condition of a just society.

Judaism, as Paul Johnson has pointed out, is particularly strong in balancing individual and collective responsibility. As the ancient sage Hillel put it: "If I am not for myself, who will be? And if I am only for myself, what am I?"

Wealth is a divine blessing, and therefore it is not only to be increased but also shared, partly through taxation, partly through voluntary contributions of money and time. The highest form of dignity is independence. It follows that the greatest benefit we can confer is to provide anyone with a job, allowing people to become not just recipients but also contributors.

These were the values that emerged most strongly from the Prime Minister's speech with its emphasis on schools, families, Welfare to Work and "the giving age". Nowhere was this more pointedly illustrated than in Mr Blair's definition of a decent society: "*To all should* be given opportunity, from all responsibility demanded." That is a sentence whose *structure* comes from the works of Marx, but whose sentiment comes from the books of Moses. The Prime Minister's gift is to have turned this most ancient of texts into a workable agenda for British renewal.

I suspect that this is only *partly to do with his personal* commitment as a Christian. Mr Blair is wise enough to *know that politics and religion* are poor bedfellows, best kept apart. It has much more to do with his intuitive grasp of the new politics of the 1990s.

Mr Blair has understood the profound shift in the terms of public life. The old politics could be summed up in a series of oppositions: labour or capital, the State or the individual, public ownership or private property, higher or lower public spending.

The new politics is about something more fundamental, about the institutions in which we live and through which we try to create that elusive thing called society. *It* was born in a sense of crisis. Crime rates were rising. People were more affluent but more anxious. The family was in disarray. It was widely felt that something was going wrong in the fabric of our public life. An achievable programme of social transformation was needed.

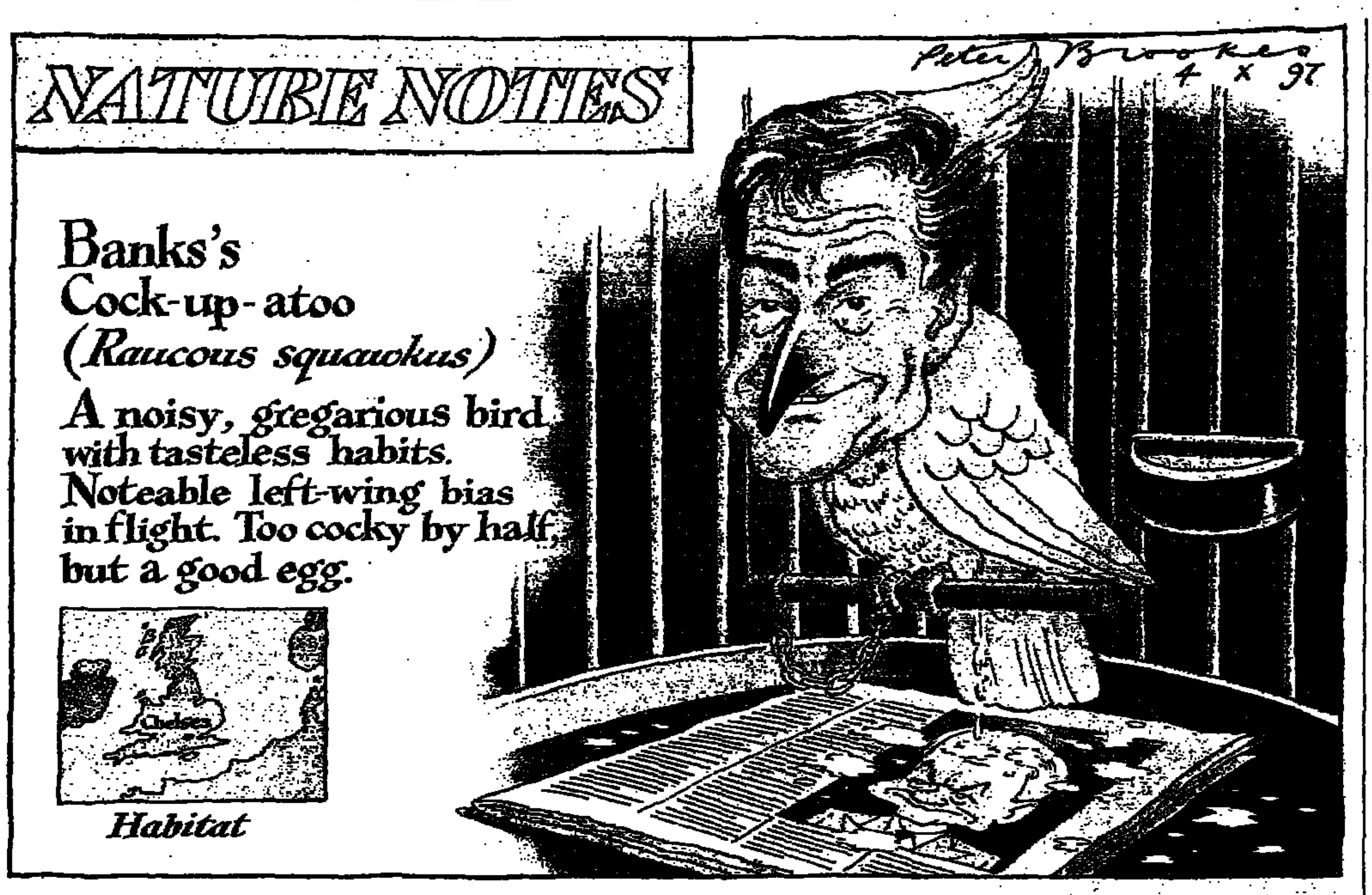
There was nothing inherently party political about this. The *new politics might as* easily have emerged from civic conservatism or community-based *liberal democracy as* from new Labour's version of ethical socialism. But Mr Blair saw *it clearly and articulated it* with conviction.

The Hebrew Bible is a text for our times because it is less about the State than about society. That is what differentiates it from the great political works since Hobbes. The question after Thatcherism was what lies beyond the minimalist State. Private initiative turned out to be only part of the answer. The other half lies in strong families, schools, communities and voluntary organisations. That is the only way to marry an enterprise culture with a just and compassionate society.

It is always risky to take a stand on the moral high ground of public life. Reading press reactions to the speech, I found Mr Blair occasionally accused of being salvationist and tele-evangelical. What the critics have failed to understand is the practical politics of social renewal. It is not just that high ideals involve tough choices. It is that tough choices need high ideals if they are to be made on principle and not avoided as the path of least resistance. They also need support. And as Roosevelt discovered in the 1930s, there is no way of creating a consensus for radical change without appealing to altruism.

This widening debate should be joined by as many divergent voices as possible. The language of visionary politics is about to be revived.

The author is the Chief Rabbi. This article was written on Wednesday, before the Jewish new year began.


NATURE NOTES
Banks's
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Chelsea
Habitat
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Towers built on wool

The pinnacles of English church architecture are found in Norfolk and Somerset. But which county is best?

Simon Jenkins

Drive through the Mendip Hills towards Wells and you will be surprised by a stone sceptre rising like Excalibur from across the fields. The sceptre is a church tower coated in filigree ornament, its pinnacles seeming to flutter in the wind. Chewton Mendip is one of a family of Somerset towers that comprise England's finest *contribution to medieval art.*

Finest? Who says? Let us instead cross the countryside north of Norwich and lose ourselves in a landscape across which giant stupas of stone and flint march towards the sea. The tower of Salle church is encrusted with the wealth of wool, the devices of its patrons blazoned on its façade, of Uffords, Brewes, Morleys and Mautebys. From the top, other towers can be seen in all directions. Inside is a riot of carving, of kings, priests, devils, mermaids, thieves, scolds, urchins; a gallery of English faces in stone and wood.

I continue my search for England's "thousand best churches" and am often challenged for my "favourite county". I find it odd that church architecture should be classifiable by county, as if churches were like breweries or cricket teams. Yet the counties of England do find definition in church style. This may partly explain their longevity in public affection, an affection no amount of government reorganisation has been able to crush. And no enthusiast can fail to have his favourite.

We must therefore take sides. I first apologise to the splendours of Yorkshire, to Northampton's mighty towers, to the angel roofs of Suffolk, to Devon's incomparable carpentry, and even to the porch at Cirencester and the glass at Fairford. The final contestants are beyond doubt. Norfolk is pitted against Somerset. Norfolk throws down the gauntlet. "What say you, brother Somerset?"

Norfolk opens strongest. It has 659 medieval churches still standing, more than any other county (if Yorkshire is counted as three). Its churches are best approached from the Ouse marshes to the west of King's Lynn. Here money won from the wool convoys threading their way to the coast raised shrines of Perpendicular glass and stone. Churches that must have cost a king's ransom were built in what seem like rows across the dykes at Terrington, Tilney, the Wiggenhalls and, most *splendid of all, Walpole St Peter.* These builders used Barnack stone, not cheap Norfolk flints. They could afford *masons* from France and brasses from Flanders. The churches *sail like galleons across a watery* landscape so flat as to defy Galileo. They sail to a horizon of gigantic skies *and interminable bungalows.*

To the east is "proper" Norfolk. On the coast are the lighthouse churches of Blakeney, Cley, Salthouse, Cromer and Happisburgh. They stand bold on bluffs by the sea. Ablaze with light at dusk, their clerestories take on a magic quality, as if detached from their bases and hovering in the air. Inland, towers rise even higher, isolated and often overgrown. They owe to upland sheep what the churches of the Castilian plain later owed to American gold. Here are Cawston, Salle, Worstead, Heydon and Knapton, the latter with a roof alive with wooden angels, gazing sadly down on empty pews below.

South are the Broads and the Waveney. On screens at Barton and Ranworth are medieval paintings that would merit a gallery to themselves in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The county capital of Norwich once had churches as thick on the ground as those of the old City of London. Most are now heartbroken refugees from Norwich's postwar desecration, but St Peter Mancroft still soars over the marketplace, a crescendo of trumpets and drums.

The churches of Norfolk were celebrated by Crome, Cotman and Piper. They were catalogued by Munro Cautley and more recently by Mortlock and Roberts. To Pevsner they were simply "prodigious". Many have been rescued by Lady Harrod and her Norfolk Churches Trust, and eulogised by the Prince of Wales on his outings from Sandringham. They are the salvation of an often gloomy landscape, the glory of an otherwise dull county. Norfolk is the church regnant over the English countryside.

Somerset grew on me more slowly. The Mendip limestone is cool, almost frigid. The churches of the Vale of Taunton *seem ridiculously ostentatious*, their exteriors too grand for *their modest interiors. The Victorians* were not kind to their furnishings and the county is poor in *monuments.*

Yet Somerset has the fiercest defenders. To John Betjeman "no 'county *comes up to Somerset*". The Victorian scholar E.A. Freeman declared in 1851 that "the highest compliment I can pay a church is to say that it reminds me of Somerset". Above all, it has its towers, gems of English architecture, each one a distinctive masterpiece by an anonymous hand.

I could imagine no better art school exercise than to compare and contrast these works. Most were thrown up, often at great speed and in local rivalry, over just two generations in the second half of the 15th century.

Alec Clifton-Taylor's essay on the proportion and decoration of a Somerset tower is a classic of aesthetics. A good tower, he wrote, should have more strength in the vertical than in the horizontal line. Its decoration should grow richer as the eye moves upwards. Each stage should taper gently. Buttresses should stand back from corners. "Lastly the summit should be reconciled with the sky."

I like to imagine medieval masons pondering these maxims as they plotted the outline of St Mary's Taunton, to my mind the finest tower in England. It makes its peace with the sky not just with a coronet but with the entire crown jewels cast in red-brown stone. Yet Taunton is rivalled by the soaring line of St Cuthbert, Wells, by the pierced façades of North Petherton, by the gallery of statues at Ile Abbots, by the space-rocket of Leigh-on-Mendip, straining to escape its puny nave. *Draw up a list* of the top 20 in England: half will be in Somerset.

Nor is this a county of towers *alone. The carved roofs* at Martock, Somerton and Shepton Mallet challenge the best in East Anglia. Their *carpentry is more complex and they* are less fixated with angels. The roof at Somerton has *the most fiendish* menagerie of monsters I know. Somerset is rich in oddities: the *Jacobean screen at Croscombe; the* secret garden at Dunster; the mile-long walk through a forest to reach *tiny Culbone; the naked-breasted* ladies filling the roof at Mulcheney; the chancel at Stogumber, repainted *by a Victorian vicar convinced that he* could outdo William Morris.

Thus far Somerset matches Norfolk *blow for blow.* But Somerset has two natural advantages which Norfolk cannot equal. The first is contour. *Norfolk's lofty towers make* their own landscape. But they cannot pin whole villages to a hillside, as do the Mendip towers of Axbridge, Banwell, Compton Martin and Chewton. Norfolk has no charm to set against the exquisite valleys of the Quantocks and Exmoor. Here churches seem to emerge from the sloping soil as if grown from seed. These are settings of the most sublime picturesque.

Nor can Norfolk match Somerset stone, indeed it must often fall back on flint. Somerset building materials can be traced across an entire spectrum, from yellow in the north near Bath, down through the blue-grey Lias of the Mendips, to the red-browns of Taunton and the Quantocks. Most superb of all is the dark honey-coloured limestone of Ham Hill in the south.

Not even the richest Cotswold can equal Ham stone in its prime, best displayed across the Wiltshire border at Sherborne Abbey. Tinted with iron, this stone has a chameleon character. I once watched the walls of Norton-sub-Hamden, built of purest Ham, as they drank in a setting summer sun. The stone first turned a rich biscuit colour and then, as the sky darkened, it turned again to a pink-grey and glowed for a full hour.

Nothing could equal that. Both Norfolk and Somerset rode to pre-eminence on a tide of wool wealth in the 15th and early 16th centuries. Somerset's master masons produced from that wealth a richer and more diverse art. In my view Somerset takes the palm. But may the gods of planning and fundraising protect them both. May visitors love their churches and new uses be found for those that are empty.

I rarely encounter a living soul in these buildings. Yet they form a collective monument of world class. *They cry out for appreciation.*

Hercules was the greatest

Simon Barnes on how sport became our mythology

I have been there *before, of course.* All of us who work in sport have been there. First the achievement, *impressive enough in its way.* Then the fatuous adulation. Then the exploitation, the transition from hero *to honeypot. Then the* change as the human being starts to believe in his own mythology of invincibility.

But I watched without weariness, for it was one of those dizzying moments when the wheel turns full circle before you. This was not a quotidian sporting myth. This was a mythical myth. The sports star involved was Hercules, the context was the latest Walt Disney cartoon.

The film turns on the point at which Hercules gets involved in product endorsement. Soon everyone in Thebes — the "Big Olive" — is wearing "Air-Here" sandals; a not over-subtle reference to Michael "Air" Jordan, the sporting icon, who was made that way by a firm of plimsoll manufacturers.

The retelling of the Hercules myth is done with lashings of anachronisms, *then, and wittily enough. But* the greatest anachronism of them all is that this is a film about sport. From *start to finish, sport permeates every* aspect of the tale.

Young Hercules is a hyperactive *prodigy who, being cast in the* American mould, "has a dream". He wants to be a hero, and seeks a *trainer of heroes. Soon he is working* day and night with Philoctetes, here not an archer but a boxing trainer *who tells Hercules:* "This is the big time." Hercules's enemy, Hades, says at one point: "It's only half-time. Soon we'll come to my favourite part of the game — sudden death."

Marshall McLuhan said: "Blast *the sports pages, peddlers of pickled* gods and archetypes." He is right. Sports writers do not create the pickled gods, we only peddle them. If sport did not have pickled gods and archetypes, the sports pages would have very few readers.

That sport is the mythology of the late 20th century is an ineluctable truth. The world has its shared tales of the rise and fall of heroes, their virtues, their self-destructive flaws: Gazza's goals, Gazza's tears, Gazza's self-inflicted injury, Gazza's wife-beating. Ian Botham, Ben Johnson, Mike Tyson, Diego Maradona, John McEnroe, Muhammad Ali, O.J. Simpson — sport is forever creating unambiguous supermen and then revealing for us their mortality, their human fallibility, their desperate fragility.

That sport becomes mythology is a long-established pattern. The essential paradox of *Hercules* is that for an ancient myth to be accessible to people now, mythology has to become sport. The film is, in its way, a tribute to the quite extraordinary power that sport holds over the imagination of the world.

Sport creates instant heroes. That is the nature, not exactly of sport itself, but certainly of the televised pan-global sporting industry. The key to the new mythology is the accessibility of sport. Attention on such a hero is obsessive; and the dullest and most stable person in the world could not stand it. The flaws must come out, there is no help for it. And it is a truism of sport (and everything else) that one creates as much from one's flaws as from one's virtues. Botham's belligerence, McEnroe's temperament, Maradona's deviousness. The term "flawed hero" is a tautology. That is precisely the point on which all forms of mythology turn — whether the heroes come from Mount Olympus *or from the Olympic Games.*

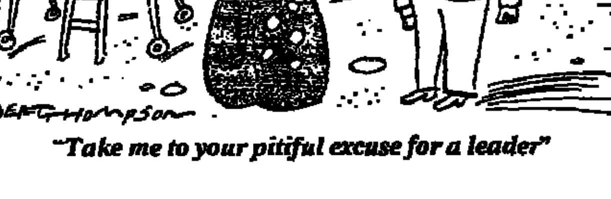
Rock shocker

PRINCE EDWARD is to acquire an unlikely partner: Oliver Reed, hard-drinking actor. They are teaming up to make Edward's first feature film, *Isle of Mann*. It describes life on the 1960s festival circuit with a debauched rock band whose members get back together after a 30-year break — and promises to be a *rather fruity flick.* This represents progress for Edward Windsor, to adopt his working title, who had been attacked for using *connections with his folks to make* rather wooden royal programmes such as *Edward on Edward.*

Oliver Reed; Prince Edward

The new film is written and directed by an Corbin Bernsen, an American actor who portrayed a libidinous lawyer in the television series *LA Law.* The film will be co-produced in the UK by the prince and Morgan Mason, son of the actor James Mason. The prince has taken an option to produce two further Bernsen movies.

"It is a heartwarming, feelgood movie," says a source. "The script is complete and we are casting as we speak. We are looking at Oliver Reed and John Hurt to star in the movie. It is like a *Big Chill* for the millennium." The poor prince.



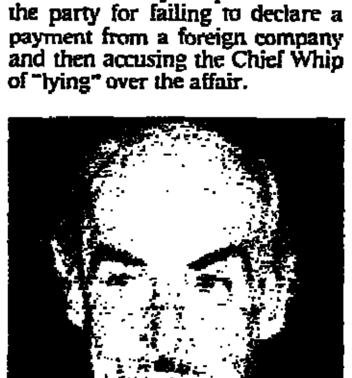
"Take me to your pitiful excuse for a leader"

● *THESE ARE lean times for former minister Douglas Hogg, whose handling of the BSE crisis left him in a bit of a cow pat. He has returned to the safer pastures of the Bar, where he last grazed in 1986, but such has been the demand for his services that he has issued an advertisement reminding solicitors that he is available for work. The large notice in the* Law Society Gazette *states that his chambers "are pleased to announce" that Mr Hogg has returned to the chambers of Harvey McGregor, QC, specialising in subjects close to his heart — personal injury and professional negligence.*

THE TIMES DIARY

Muckraker

SO BAD have Labour's local difficulties become that 007 is needed. It all started when Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, took lodgings in Gordon Brown's house, No 11 Downing Street (his own pad, No 12, is infested with builders). So there Nick Brown was, making himself at home, sitting at the Chancellor's desk. There he fulminated about the errant Liverpool West Derby MP, Bob Wareing, who was briefly suspended from the party for failing to declare a payment from a foreign company and then accusing the Chief Whip of "lying" over the affair.



Visitor: Sean Connery

"What we need," ruminated Brown, "is a secret agent to sort Liverpool out." And who should wander into the study but Sean Connery — a friend of the Chancellor's since they campaigned together for Scottish devolution — who had been invited to take a shufti around Downing Street by his newfound chum.

● *SINCE Andrew Morton decided to update his Diana book. The* Mirror *has been quick to condemn. Perhaps there is a hidden agenda. Shortly before the 1992 election, Piers Morgan, now that paper's Editor, apparently had a £2,000 bet with Morton that John Major would not be re-elected. After the Tory victory, Morton rang to ask for his dosh. Morgan laughingly told him: "Oh, I was only joking." Morton was furious. He said: "I would have paid up," gave Morgan a free character reference and even talked of honour. Since then, relations have been "interesting". Perhaps Piers — rather pukka for a tabloid type — thought Morton was quite rich enough already.*

● **OLD TIMES**
AFTER John Prescott's call for unity, some recall his rant at Jim Callaghan in 1987: "You've snookered us. You've cost us another election." Callaghan snapped back: "If you had listened to me, you wouldn't be leading Labour to the slaughter."

● **NEW TIMES**
WORRIED that interest may be waning in Dewsbury Festival of Christian Music, its organisers have decided to advertise the festival's chief attraction — "organ music" — on a living poster: the rippling pectorals of a muscleman. Hmmm . . .

● **PARTY TIMES**
MARTIN AMIS was cross. His new novella, *Night Train*, had enjoyed mixed notices. The mood at the launch party was chilly. Sure, Mart's friends were all there — Salman Rushdie, inevitably, and Ian McEwan, displaying his new wife Annalena McAfee — but Amis rarely grinned his expensive grin. He was more concerned with the state of the dance floor. "The music is all wrong. I asked for the Rolling Stones — you know, Nick Hornby stuff — but I've got *Penny Lane.* I can't *exhibit* to this."

Rushdie shared his concern, proclaiming the music "undanceable" — perhaps wisely after his gyrations at a previous Amis party (I recall one unkind fellow guest at the launch of *The Information* calling them "Mr Bean steps").

Safely away from the action, Rushdie enlarged on the bond between the big boys of books. "I love Martin. I love Ian. We all love each other," he gushed in literary luvvie lingo, before being interrupted by a gatecrasher: "Do you get out much, then?"

Newly-married McEwan looked more contented and professed himself untroubled by his Booker failure. "I think I can live without it," he suggested. Amis defiantly refused *to exhibit. Like all old men* in cities at night, he likes to sleep, and sleep early — to the chagrin of his energetic wife, Isabel Fonseca. He managed to hold out until midnight, when he gently nudged Ms Fonseca's elbow and swept out into London Fields.

Wrong music: Martin Amis

● *LAID-BACK hostess of the week must be Her Excellency Tuelonyana Ditlhabi-Oliphant, the new High Commissioner of Botswana. She was an hour late for her own party, leaving jewels of London's diplomatic corps tapping their patent leather shoes in a hotel foyer. They had tipped up to celebrate Botswana Day. Eventually Her Excellency puffed in, complaining that the traffic in Marble Arch is rather worse than in downtown Gaborone.*

JASPER GERARD

هيكل من الإهمال

BATTLE OF THE BONES

An odd alliance seeks to keep a skeleton in the cupboard

Americans are a perplexing people. In the past four decades they have expended enormous efforts, billions of dollars, and several lives in the exploration of the solar system and outer space. This enterprise has been inspired by some of the most profound questions that mankind might and should ask: Who are we? Where did we come from? Why are we here? It is a fitting reflection on a country that De Tocqueville recognised as "the most curious, the most restless, the most inventive, the most persistent" nation on Earth. Despite this pronounced fascination with progress, there are issues that seem difficult to address in the contemporary United States: Who are the Americans? Where did they come from? Why are they here?

These contradictions have been exposed in a courtroom. The case concerns a skeleton known as "Kennewick Man" — an almost complete and stunningly preserved specimen over 9,000 years in age — unearthed by accident in Washington State last year. According to those most familiar with the find, the bones are those of a "caucasoid", a race of European or mixed European-Asian lineage. If this assessment is confirmed — and the evidence appears compelling — it would revolutionise all previous assumptions about the settlement of North America.

This has been disputed by the local Umatilla tribe which insists that any figure from such times must have been of AmerIndian extraction. They have invoked their rights under the Native Americans Grave Protection and Repatriation Act to bury the remains of their alleged forefather. The scientists who have initiated this lawsuit believe instead that what the tribe wish to entomb is the most powerful proof to date that the most ancient Americans were not in fact Mongoloid Asians who crossed from Siberia to Alaska 4,000 years ago. The true pioneers hailed from a more distant plain.

There could be no more apt comment on modern American life that this matter will be settled not by scholar, legislator or voter but by a judge. It will be probably be fought all the way to the Supreme Court. It will then fall to Chief Justice William Rehnquist to determine whether — as some claim — the earliest Americans, like his own ancestors, were of Scandinavian origin. The courts will shortly discover that this particular dispute has created an exceptional coalition.

The Umatillas will be supported by two otherwise irreconcilable camps. The politically correct have long claimed that AmerIndians were the initial Americans, brutally usurped by white conquerors. These people sincerely believe that Christopher Columbus should be posthumously tried for crimes against humanity. Creationist Christians, who in the US today probably outnumber Native Americans and progressive liberals combined, are equally committed to the notion that life on Earth started over six days in 4004BC. For them, carbon-dating is simply an instrument of Satan. Neither element in this odd compact intends to allow Kennewick Man to complicate their convictions.

The judiciary can be forgiven bemusement. It is to be hoped that it will not be unduly influenced by this implausible alliance. Pacts between the morally incompatible in opposition to the mutually inconvenient have long been part of the American picture. However, there is also another, rather higher, American tradition — the ceaseless pursuit of knowledge — that deserves to triumph in these circumstances. Thomas Jefferson, the finest philosopher-politician that the United States has ever produced, once argued rightly that "there would be no purpose in crossing the oceans and traversing this terrain only to run away from the truth". Those who sent Apollo to the Moon in pursuit of the future should now be willing to examine their own past openly.

A PATRIOT FOR ME

Blair is right to dare for a Britain that is best

Is it right for any politician to want his country to "be the best"? Outside these islands such an ambition might sit uncomfortably on some leaders' lips. For a German Chancellor to interpret *Deutschland uber Alles* today as a declaration of intent would be culturally unthinkable. For the Taioseach to speak in tones of such unqualified national pride would sit uncomfortably with the evolution of the Irish Republic as an unassertive and plural space seeking an accommodation with Ulster.

Both Germany and Ireland may sublimate their people's natural patriotic appetite into pride in economic achievement, as stakeholders in the mark or offspring off the Celtic tiger, but a more full-throated assertion of national destiny is denied them. Tony Blair does not, however, believe Britons should feel any such reticence. We are, he claims "not a sorry people" but, at the end of a week when the Government would have us believe it has dared greatly, is Mr Blair's ambition bombast, or bravery?

Pride in one's country is, of course, a matter of perspective. In the lexicon of loyalty I am a patriot, you are a nationalist and he is a chauvinist. Yet, insofar as one can view Britain objectively, there is a distinctive form of patriotism which politicians have honourably invoked and in whose steps Mr Blair may confidently tread. The 19th-century nationalism of the Continent was born in liberal idealism but developed in darker ways. Nationalism became a thing of soil rather than spirit.

In contrast, Britain's sense of itself evolved differently. The British nation was an attractive mongrel, Saxon and Celt, which found a focus for its loyalties in a constitutional monarchy, a tolerant Church and a representative Parliament. The continuity of those institutions, and their capacity to represent the nation to itself in a fashion subtler and more durable than tricolours and resurrected relics of the Roman Empire, helped Britain to cohere.

Nationality was civic rather than ethnic. The need to knit the Empire made it so but native tolerance made it work. The notion of Britishness, separate from but related to its constituent nations, helped to make these shores a sanctuary for those fleeing darker nationalisms. The Berlins and Beloffs who sought refuge here were never, strictly, English but were, all, gloriously British.

Those revisionists such as Alan Clark and John Charmley who flirt with the view that Britain then might have preserved saomething of its imperial might by standing aloof from the agony of the Continent and allowing Hitler a free hand against Bolshevism misunderstand what it is about Britain that was, and is, worth fighting for. The Briton's birthright is not consciousness of imperial glory or military puissance, not as Mr Blair realised, the knowledge that we are the "biggest" or the "mightiest". Rather it is the knowledge that Britain took risks for freedom. It was, to borrow Mr Blair's phrase, a beacon then, and can be again.

In the aftermath of Empire's loss, Britishness became a fragile thing as the flag was flourished in unworthy hands and a corrupted Left found an outlet for loyalty in support for republics democratic only in name. In the Eighties, however, confidence returned, driven at first economically but now expressed vividly in cultural terms. It is that confidence in a country relaxed, creative and tolerant but robust in the right causes, which Mr Blair seeks to harness. Mr Blair's premiership is in its infancy, his ambitions extend more to decency at home than setting an example abroad, but the task he has set himself is, in every sense, no mean one.

DAD'S ARMY CLEANS UP

The latest campaign against litter recruits the bulldog breed

It's a man's life in the modern Army. Civilian wimps stack shelves or sit in front of screens crunching numbers. But in the British Army you are trained as professionals to perform challenging work of national importance, like driving the latest Challenger tank at 40mph or keeping the peace in the wildest regions of the world.

Or you are ordered to pick up rubbish. An Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter yesterday launched the "Countryside Offensive". The enemy is rusty cookers and old cars ditched in the countryside. The helicopter lifted rotting boats from a berth near Woodbridge in Suffolk. But that was only the opening move in a campaign that recalls the Dunkirk spirit of the Walmington-on-Sea platoon to the colours.

Captain Mainwaring: "Call the men in, Wilson. Now pay attention. And stop that silly giggling, Pike. We have had the honour of being chosen to lead a national campaign against the litter that is invading Old England. It threatens our green and pleasant land as much as Mr Hitler and the Boche did at our first television parade. The first phase starts here in East Anglia this weekend. And if we are successful the rest of the country will follow our example. I count on you to do our platoon and the country proud. Any suggestions?"

Sergeant Wilson: "I do not see why we should have to dirty our uniforms doing work that is the responsibility of Mr Hodges and his ARP men."Corporal Jones: "Permission to speak, sir? Don't panic about this litter, sir. When we were trying to relieve General Gordon in the Sudan, sir, those Fuzzy-Wuzzies were terrible litter-louts. They left heads, bodies and legs all over the nice, tidy desert. But we soon taught them a lesson. They don't like it up 'em, those dirty beggars, they don't like it up 'em, especially these rusty iron spikes."

Pike: "Uncle Arthur, I don't think my mum would want me to get my boots dirty in this gooey Suffolk mud. Your foot weighs a ton after only two steps in it." Mainwaring: "Stupid boy!" Frazer: "We're doomed if we go into these huge fields full of pesticide and nitrogen fertiliser. But our litter-sweeper-upper would have a clear field of fire from here to the municipal brown-bottle dump if it wasn't for that woman in the telephone box." Private Walker: "If Jonesey will lend me his butcher's van, sir, I have a friend who might take some of this scrap metal off your hands, as a favour. Though of course you'd have to pay his landfill tax. Not that this stuff is worth anything. These Suffolk yokels never throw anything useful away."

Army recruiting is desperately low. Britain is disappearing beneath a tide of litter. So as the great Lord Kitchener famously said, in more senses than one: "The Country Needs You."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN **Telephone** 0171-782 5000

PM's promises in perspective

From the Chairman of the Citizenship Foundation

Sir, It was shrewd as well as inspirational for the Prime Minister to call upon everyone to "give your all" in his conference speech (report, October 1). He understands that everyone has something to give and that every contribution is valuable.

Nonetheless, if Mr Blair's exhortation is to come to fruition a transformation is required. There are millions of young people who do not feel part of the society the rest of us inhabit, and many are alienated from it.

The causes of that are complex. Whilst young people must not be pandered to, to become a "giving" citizen requires skill, knowledge and will. Unless, therefore, young people are helped to acquire the minimal competence needed in an ever-complicating society in order to contribute to it, we are deluding ourselves.

As this foundation knows only too well from its work in schools, education for that sort of competence is generally in retreat, apt to be pushed to one side by preoccupation with league tables and constrained by cash shortages. This was partly recognised in David Blunkett's recent White Paper, *Excellence in Schools* (report, July 9).

The hard choice for the Government will be to put its authority behind, and the necessary resources towards, making a real impact on this fundamental problem.

Yours truly,
ANDREW PHILLIPS,
Chairman,
Citizenship Foundation,
15 St Swithins Lane, EC4.
October 1.

From Mr Simon Chapman

Sir, Conservatives reading the transcript of Tony Blair's conference speech will, once they strip out the sentimentality and platitudes, find much with which they can agree: for example, his objectives of creating a non-bureaucratic European Union; reforming the welfare state; improving teacher quality; and strengthening the traditional family unit.

Emphasis on individual responsibility and duty, not rights, is profoundly Conservative, and it would be a mistake for Conservatives to pour scorn on any of these goals. Instead they must welcome Mr Blair's conversion and scrutinise the means by which he proposes to achieve them.

Their task in Opposition is clear. They must keep him to his promises.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON CHAPMAN,
Old Beith House, Fernhurst Road,
Milland, Liphook, Hampshire.
October 2.

From Mr Matthew Wyatt

Sir, What a revelation in the Prime Minister's speech: "Twenty years ago the IMF came to bury us. Now they come to praise us. Yes, new Labour's got new friends everywhere."

Who was in power for 18 out of the last 20 years? Did the magical turnaround occur between 1977 and 1979? If it did not, perhaps Mr Blair no longer stands by the manifestos on which he fought elections in 1983, 1987 and 1992. How long before he denounces the manifesto of 1997?

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW WYATT,
48 Bradman Way,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
October 1.

From Mrs Barbara Buxton

Sir, I beg to differ from Sheila Lawlor's belief (article, September 20) that Mr Blair's favourite buzzword is "modernisation", although it might be a close second. "The people" is the phrase which he favours most constantly — a device common to demagogues through history.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA BUXTON,
Dakins Barn, Sheffield Road,
Hathersage, Derbyshire.
October 2.

Yoke of gobbledegook

From Mr Michael F. Lowy

Sir, I hope Mr Tony Banks won't mind a Conservative voter totally out of sympathy with his left-wing ideals joining Philip Howard in his defence (reports, October 2; article October 3).

Thank goodness for someone who has not succumbed to the shackles of po-faced political pronouncement. By the use of heightened language and colourful metaphor Mr Banks articulates his thoughts with absolute clarity and succinctness — a welcome relief from the vapid rhetoric now regarded as politically correct.

In Tony Blair's brave new world we surely don't want to trample a linguistic heritage which stretches from Shakespeare through a notable line of diarists, commentators and orators — or must all our public figures be obliged to don the yoke of gobbledegook and "be as valiant as the wrathful dove, or most magnanimous mouse" (Falstaff, *Henry IV part II*)?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LOWY,
Paynes Cottage,
Charlwood Farm,
East Grinstead, West Sussex.
lowy@pncl.co.uk
October 3.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Putting a stop to raids on churches

From Lord Lloyd-Webber

Sir, The leader ("Nothing sacred", September 30) concerning the wave of thefts and vandalism in churches in Cornwall expressed the important opinion that the churches themselves must face up to the problem of protecting their buildings and artefacts.

Four years ago I started and funded The Open Churches Trust with the prime objective of opening as many of the hundreds of locked Grade I churches as possible. My initiative led to a plethora of advice from every security company in the land.

The trust wholeheartedly agrees with you that "the best remedy . . . lies with man rather than modernity", and when a previously locked church becomes open with the help of a grant it insists that there should be an attendant present.

There is no doubt that potential thieves are attracted to churches they know will be deserted from Monday to Saturday. The trust advocates that every church could be open for a minimum of one or two days a week for a few hours and this alone, with visitor activity, will stop giving thieves and vandals a free ride.

Yours sincerely,
LLOYD-WEBBER
(Trustee,
The Open Churches Trust),
c/o The Really Useful Group Ltd,
22 Tower Street, WC2.
October 1.

From Mr W. Ruxton

Sir, You recommend "church watch" schemes for parishes wishing to keep their churches open, but there can be some risk to a solitary vounteer without communication to a third party. There are also extra costs, as without warmth and light the supply of volunteers will not be great.

Church security embraces more than "open hours". The National Trust, for whom I previously worked, has learnt that it is perfectly possible to devise a security strategy which will reduce risks without festooning the place with cameras. This does, however, mean appointing a qualified person to study the problem, and using the experience of parishes with effective security systems.

Regrettably, the Church of England authorities have not seen their way to appointing a security consultant and no central records of break-ins and thefts have been kept from which lessons might be learnt. Consultants and advice cost money. However, we are dealing here with part of the nation's heritage, so surely finance should be found, perhaps from the lottery.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM RUXTON
(Security consultant, Southwark
Diocesan Advisory Committee,
1994-97),
Woodlands,
Icehouse Wood, Oxted, Surrey.
October 1.

Conflicting versions of Nicene Creed

From Mr John D. Wardlaw

Sir, The row at St Paul's Cathedral over conflicting versions of the Nicene Creed (report, September 25) explains exactly why the churches are emptying.

The Nicene Creed belongs to the time when it was formulated (AD 325) in order to clear up the confusion over what was to be the Christian religion — a confusion which has persisted from that day to this. It has no relevance to the present day.

Older church attenders of today have had the Nicene teachings forced upon them since the age of five, at which age "faith" is synonymous with ignorance. If the Church is to survive into the next century it must convene another council of bishops in order to remove the mythology which has accreted to the Nicene Creed over the years. Let us have less of Jesus the Messiah and more of Jesus the ordinary man.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. WARDLAW,
5 Albert Terrace,
London Road,
Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway.
September 25.

From Mr Andrew Sellon

Sir, The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's show a lack of comprehension of the proprieties in using an unauthorised version of the Nicene Creed at public worship within their cathedral.

Sydney Smith, Canon Residentiary of St Paul's in the last century, often had feelings of frustration towards the thoughts and actions of the then dean and chapter. On a motion to lay down a wooden pavement around the cathedral he said: "If my reverend brethren will but lay their heads together, it will be done in a trice."

It would seem that the many forward-thinking churchmen of the last century and a half have still to influence the good sense and understanding of those responsible for changes in the liturgy of the Church of England.

Maybe something already in existence, tried and approved, would be useful, such as the Book of Common Prayer?

Yours etc,
ANDREW SELLON,
16 Avocet Lane,
Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk.
September 25.

Outsiders and others

From Mr Paul Redgrave

Sir, Jack Crossley (letter, September 26; see also letter, September 22) claims "emmets" to be Cornish for the Devonian "grockles" — both words applied to tourists or visitors.

Emette, or *aemette*, is in fact Old English (Anglo-Saxon) for ant. Cornish countryfolk may have borrowed it from English settlers and it certainly passed down to surfers of the 1960s, who used it as a contemptuous term for any people but themselves who wanted to enjoy the beaches of Cornwall.

If they wanted a really nasty word to describe their unwanted "guests" they should have called them "pismires", which also means ants, from the Middle English, because ant-hills smell of urine.

The origin of "grockle" is unknown. The word was popularised in the early 1960s by Peter Draper, who wrote the film script for *The System*, directed by Michael Winner, about a womanising beach photographer (played by Oliver Reed) in Torbay.

In the film a visitor is seen paddling in the sea with his trousers rolled up, wearing braces, with a knotted handkerchief on his head and licking an ice-cream: the archetypal "tripper". "That," explains a local beachboy to a friend, "is a grockle."

Mr Draper told me he first heard the word used by a Torquay boatman.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL REDGRAVE,
Omphalos,
Grenville Park, Yelverton, Devon.
September 27.

From Mr Philip Taylor

Sir, Visitors are easy targets for witty and euphonious epithets. "Grockles" is more widely used in this sense than Jack Crossley thinks. Strangely, according to Jonathon Green's *The Slang Thesaurus* (Penguin, 1986), it means unfashionable.

Here, in late season, we have something else: busload after busload of "wrinklies", and very welcome they are too. We have been told that Australians, in a rare departure from subtlety, call such elderly visitors "crumblies". I hope that this label does not catch on, as I am soon to join them.

Yours,
PHILIP TAYLOR,
Old Bracondale, 10 Overstrand Road,
Cromer, Norfolk.
September 29.

Police slang

From Mr Andrew J. Bullock

Sir, I am afraid that Dr Malcolm Young may have misunderstood his former colleagues in the police force if he believes that the phrase "She's got a face like a robber's dog chewing a wasp" is a comparison with an animal (Psychological Society conference report, October 1).

A "robber's dog" is, in fact, the wife or girlfriend of a criminal. The phrase quoted by Dr Young is ultimately derived from the look upon the face of such a woman when faced with police officers intent on apprehending her nearest and dearest, executing search warrants in her home or, indeed, carrying out their lawful duties in any other way. It is therefore a reference to a facial expression betraying great hostility or bitterness rather than, as might first appear, to physical ugliness.

Whether this is a factor which aggravates or mitigates the behaviour of those officers whose conversations were recorded by Dr Young I leave you to decide.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW J. BULLOCK,
169 Temple Chambers,
Temple Avenue, EC4.
October 1.

Assisi earthquake

From Mr Gerald Cole

Sir, I was touched by the sad reports of death and damage arising out of the recent earthquake in Umbria (September 27, 29, 30; leading article, September 30).

On a visit to Assisi earlier this year, I joined scores of other pilgrims from many different nations filing through the basilica and was impressed, not just by the magnificence of the basilica and its frescoes, but also by the atmosphere of prayer that seemed quietly to pervade the place.

Is there going to be an international appeal for funds to help the Italian authorities in Assisi? I am sure many of us in Britain would be only too happy to make a contribution.

What a way to mark the saint's feast day on October 4!

Yours faithfully,
GERALD COLE,
8 The Courtyard,
South Street, Falmer, East Sussex.
gcolesuss@aol.com
October 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Jewel find seen as loss to prehistory

From Professor Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, FBA

Sir, Your heading, "Ancient jewels saved" (*The Times* Today, October 2), masks, perhaps misleadingly, the enormous loss to archaeology and to our knowledge of the ancient world that the illicit and unrecorded looting of this major treasure represents, a loss which the recovery of the objects themselves rectifies only in small part.

The artefacts themselves, as clearly shown in your excellent photograph, indicate that this must have been the earliest major collection of goldwork yet found in Greek lands, perhaps a thousand years older than the so-called "Treasure of Priam" discovered by Schliemann at Troy. But unless further investigation can now establish the precise circumstances of the find — a tomb? a settlement? a shrine? a cave? — we shall learn little that is new from the discovery, and a whole chapter in the prehistory of Europe will be lost.

Illicit excavation destroys the context from which we can learn so much more about the date, the circumstances and above all the society which made these things. Far from a triumph, this is a tragedy for prehistory and the Greek national heritage.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN RENFREW
(Disney Professor of Archaeology),
University of Cambridge,
The McDonald Institute for
Archaeological Research,
Downing Street, Cambridge.
October 2.

Bulldog breeding

From Mr John A. Harries-Harris

Sir, In its entry on the bulldog in my copy of *The Dog in Health and Disease*, by "Stonehenge" (4th edition, published in 1887), it is stated that:

> The dog conveys an impression of determination, strength, and activity, similar to that suggested by the appearance of a thick-set Ayrshire or Highland bull.

The dog is also pictured, and looks remarkably like Mr Ken Mollett's Boatswain (report and photograph, September 25), the product of 14 years of cross-breeding to try to restore the breed to its former glory. The entry states that "The most desirable size is about 50lbs in weight."

It is tragic that so few examples of the breed chosen to represent us as a nation should any longer look like Boatswain. Yet this trend is, sadly, par for the course. We now have cases of greyhounds which can scarcely race, retrievers with impaired vision and German shepherd dogs which can hardly stand.

In my opinion the view of modern breeding requirements expressed by Mr Brian Leonard, of the Kennel Club — "There is a degree to which we want couch-potato dogs for couch-potato owners. People want an entertaining character not very interested in exercise" — is a cruel one, and people who subscribe to such an attitude should not be allowed to keep animals.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. HARRIES-HARRIS,
47 Berkeley Street,
Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.
September 25.

Ask a silly question . . .

From Mr Robin C. Davis

Sir, A friend of mine, whilst being interviewed for a job in Scotland (letters, September 1, 10, 16, 20, 22, 27), was asked whether he participated in the national pastime.

"Yes," he said, "I enjoy a drink."

"I meant golf," said the less than impressed interviewer.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN C. DAVIS,
223 Richmond Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
September 30.

From Miss K. E. Sayers

Sir, Many years ago my sister was interviewed for a job at the local library. The first question asked was, "Why is this candidate not a male?"

She didn't get the job.

Yours sincerely,
K. E. SAYERS,
12 Bowes Avenue, Westhook, Kent.
September 30.

From Mr A. A. Rhodes

Sir, Thank you for this correspondence, which has gone some way to help me understand the quality of management of many companies in this country.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY A. RHODES,
4 Cairnsmore Close,
Long Eaton, Nottingham.

What a knockout

From Mr C. J. Lester

Sir, I must agree with your third leader headline today, "Not for Girls".

Boxing is, indeed, "barbaric enough already". With the female sex in the ring it would become utterly terrifying.

Yours faithfully
COLIN LESTER,
47 School Road,
Upwell, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.
October 3.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 3: The Queen received His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku, *the Commonwealth Secretary* General, today.

The Lieutenant Governor of *Quebec and Monsieur Thibault* were received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Mr Hiroaki Fujii and *Mrs Fujii were received in* farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Ex*cellency relinquishing his appoint*ment as Ambassador from Japan to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Graham Coulson *was re*ceived by Her Majesty upon relinquishing her appointment as *Chief* Clerk. *Private* Secretary's Office.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 3: The Prince Edward this afternoon left Heathrow Airport, London, to attend the celebrations preceding the marriage of The Infanta Doña Cristina in Barcelona, Spain.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 3: The Princess Royal this *afternoon arrived at Gatwick Air*port, London, from Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, *the National Society for the* Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon visited the Society's *Norfolk Child Protection Team at* 246 High Street, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, and was received by *Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of* Norfolk (Sir Timothy Colman KG).

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 3: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants *Bureau, this morning arrived in* Shibam, the Republic of Yemen, and was received by the Governor *of Shibam (Colonel Saleh Obad Al* Kholani).

His Royal Highness afterwards toured the city.

The Duke of Gloucester later arrived in Tarim and attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of Hadhramout (Colonel Saleh Obad Al Kholani) at the Qasr Al Qubba Guesthouse, Tarim.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 3: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the American Air Museum in Britain, this morning visited *Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft* Systems, Forth Worth, Texas, United States of America.

Dinner

British Marine Equipment Council
The British Marine Equipment Council, sponsored by Lord Elliott of Morpeth, held a reception and dinner at the House of Commons last night. Mr Martin Jay, president of the council, presided. Lord Elliott and Sir Nicholas Hunt, Director-General of the Chamber of Shipping, were the principal guests.

Feltmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Feltmakers' Com*pany for the ensuing year:*
Master, Mr P A Grant; Upper Warden, His Honour Keith Devlin; Renter Warden, Commander I R Wellesley-Harding, RN, Third Warden, Mr J J G Rowley; Fourth Warden, Mr W Horsman.

Legal appointment

Mr Michael Ellery to be a District *Judge on the Midland and Oxford* Circuit. The appointment took effect on Wednesday this week.

Today's royal engagements

The *Princess* Royal, as Patron, Royal Lymington Yacht Club, will attend the Potter Ship Race at Royal Lymington Yacht Club, Bath Road, Lymington, Hampshire, at 9.10.

Princess Margaret, as President, the NSPCC, will attend a ball to be given at Somerleyton Hall, Lowestoft, Suffolk, at 7.55.

Baron Davies of Coity

The life barony conferred upon Mr David Garfield Davies has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Davies of Coity**, of Penybont in the County of Mid Glamorgan.

Baron Roberts of Conwy

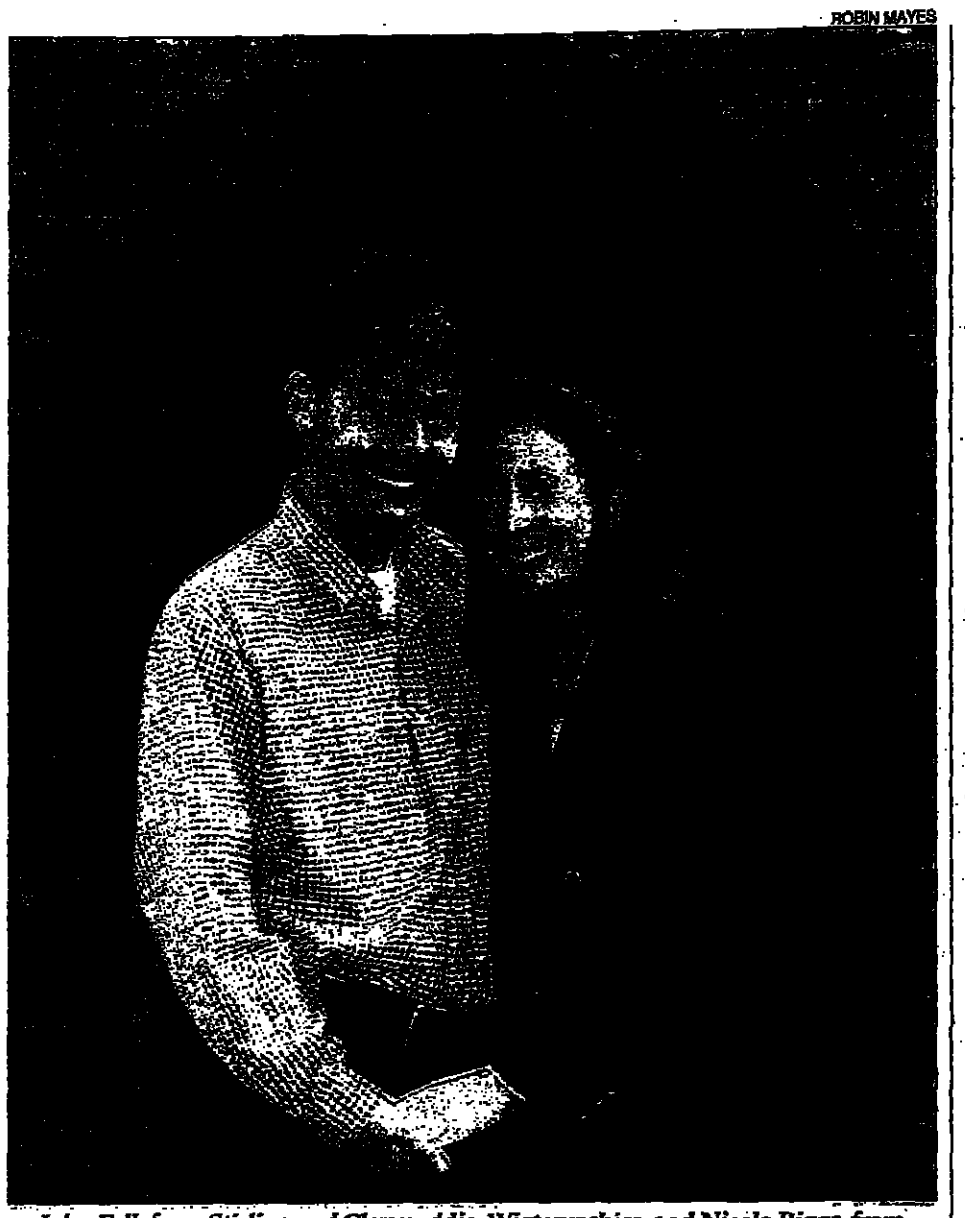
The life barony conferred upon Sir Ieuan Wyn Pritchard Roberts has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Roberts of Conwy**, of Talyfan in the County of Gwynedd.

Weekend birthdays

Today
Professor Richard Batchelor, immunologist, 66; Lord Blaker, 75; Sir Neville Bowman-Shaw, company chairman, 67; Miss Jackie Collins, novelist, 60; Sir Terence Conran, restaurateur, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, 86; Mr Basil D'Oliveira, cricketer, 66; Miss Lesley Glaister, novelist, 41; Mr Harry Greenway, *former* MP, 63; Dr F. Dudley Hart, rheumatologist, 88; Mr Charlton *Heston, actor, 73; Sir John Hogg*, banker, 85; Sir Tommy Macpherson, former chairman, Associ*ation of* British *Chambers of* Commerce, 77; Mr R.G. Martin, former vice-chairman, Allied-Lyons, 65; *Mr Tony Meo, snooker* player, 38; Sir Hector Monro (life peer), 75; Dr Gareth Owen, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 75; Mr John Platts-Mills, QC, 71; Mr Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, racehorse trainer, 52; Mr Giles Radice, MP, 61; Miss Anneka Rice, broadcaster, 39; Miss Susan Sarandon, actress, 51; the Right Rev Dr R.D. Say, KCVO, former Bishop of Rochester, 83; Mr Marcus Setchell, Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen, 54; Sir Gervase Sheldon, former High Court judge, 84; Sir James Spicer, former MP, 72; Miss Ann Widdecombe, MP, 50; Mr Kenneth Wood, founder, Kenwood Manufacturing Company, 81.

Tomorrow
Sir Raymond Appleyard, biologist, 75; Mr Robin Bailey, actor, 78; Mr *John Bridgeman, Director-Gen*eral of Fair Trading, 53; Mr Ray Clemence, former England foot*ball goalkeeper, 49; Miss Steph*anie Cole, actress, 56; Miss Laura Davies, golfer, 34; Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, former chairman, Ferranti, 70; Sir John Dent, former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 74; Mr Bob Geldof, KBE, rock singer and initiator, Band Aid, 43; the Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, 61; Mr Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, 61; Lord Holderness, 77; Miss Elly Jansen, founder, Richmond Fellowship, 68; *Miss Glynis Johns, actress, 74; Mr* Robert Kee, broadcaster, 78; Mr Herbert Kretzmer, journalist and lyricist, 72; *Mrs Kate* Losinska, trade unionist, 73; Mr David Mellor, silversmith and designer, 67; Mr Bruce Millan, former *MP*, 70; Sir Edward Peck, diplomat, 82; Sir Douglas Ranger, otolaryngologist, 81; Mr Richard Rosser, trade unionist, 53; Sir Richard Thompson, former MP, 85; Mr Adair Turner, Director-General, CBI, 42; Mr Dave Watson, former footballer, 51.

Details of tomorrow's church services are on page 17 of the Weekend section.



ROBIN MAYES

John Fell, from Stirling and Claymoddie, Wigtownshire, and Nicola Biggs, from Woodseaves, Staffordshire, who recently announced their engagement

Service luncheons

Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment
Brigadier R.W. Acworth presided at the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment ladies luncheon held yesterday at Clandon Park, Surrey.

Fifth Indian Division
To mark the 50th anniversary of India and Pakistan Independence, the Fifth Indian Division gave a luncheon yesterday at the Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington. Colonel Mukhtar Ahmed of the Pakistan High Commission and Lieutenant-Colonel H.N. Mhaisalkar, Indian Army Liaison Officer, were the guests of honour. Lieutenant-Colonel A.P. Harrington presided.

Service dinners

Navigating and Direction Officers' Association
Commodore Ian Gibb, an Elder Brother of Trinity House, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of Officers of the Navigating and Direction branch of the Royal Navy held last night in *HMS Dryad*.

Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Moore presided. Among others present were:
Vice-Admiral Sir Barry Wilson, Vice-Admiral J J Blackham, Rear-Admiral Sir Ronald Forrest, Rear-Admiral D Eckersley-Maslin, Rear-Admiral A P Hoddinott, Rear-Admiral J S Lang, Rear-Admiral F M Malbon and Commodore J R Hance, Commodore of *HMS Dryad*.

Royal Hampshire Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel H.D.H. Keatinge, Chairman of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Officers' Association, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Serle's House, Winchester. Brigadier R.G. Long was among those present.

Memorial service

Mr Christopher Harley
Sir Thomas Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Hereford and Worcester, read a lesson at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Christopher Harley, landowner, held yesterday at Hereford *Cathedral. The Dean of Hereford* Cathedral officiated, assisted by Prebendary Andrew Talbot-Ponsonby, who led the prayers. Mr Edward Harley, son, also read a lesson.

The Very Rev Robert Willis, Dean, gave an address. The *Bishop of Hereford pronounced* the blessing. Mrs Harley, widow, Dr John Harley, Mr Adrian Harley and Mr Philip Harley, sons, Mrs Edward Harley, daughter-in-law, and many other members of the family and friends were among those present.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr S.A. Castleden and Miss L. Henley
The engagement is announced between *Simon*, son of Mr and Mrs David Castleden, of Newton, Nottinghamshire, and Linda, *youngest daughter of* Mr and Mrs George Henley, of Catford, London.

Mr *M.R.* Clark and Miss I.E. Romāne
The engagement is announced between *Michael, son of Mr and* Mrs Ralph Clark, of Street, Somerset, and Ilse, daughter of Mr Janis *Romāns* and *Mrs Maria Romāne*, of Riga, Latvia.

Mr D.P.M. Doulton and Miss L.R. Caldwell
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Doulton, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, and Laura, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs *Lloyd* Caldwell, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr M.J.P. Harrison and Miss J.B.A. Dighton
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Harrison, of Blackheath, London, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Dighton, of Wimbledon, *London* SW19.

Mr W.R. Janssen and Miss *N.D. Howe*
The engagement is announced between Willem, son of Mr and *Mrs Frits* Janssen, of Easton, Hampshire, and Nicole, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Howe, of *Furze Hill, Hampshire*.

Mr S.H. Keeling and Mrs U. Edmonstone
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Keeling, of Sedlescombe, East Sussex, and Ursula, daughter of the late Mr Benjamin Worthington and of Mrs Worthington, of Brough Park, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.P. Lewis Ogden and Miss J.L. Webster
The engagement is announced between Philip, twin son of Mr Desmond Lewis Ogden and the late Mrs Kathleen Lewis Ogden, of Nesfield, North Yorkshire, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Webster, of Woodthorpe, York.

Mr M. Osborne and Miss S.J. DeRechter
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Harry and Mavis Osborne, of Oxford, and Sophie, daughter of Ian and Suzanne DeRechter, of Melbourne.

Mr J. Rose and *Miss C.P. Corfield*
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Aubrey Rose, of Hadley Wood, and Caroline, daughter of Sir Kenneth and Lady Corfield, of Hampstead.

Mr S. Watkins and *Miss G. Mellins*
The engagement is announced between Steve, elder son of Mr J.D. Watkins, of Yatton and Trinidad, and Mrs A.S. Watkins, of Tunbridge Wells, and Gill, elder daughter of Dr and *Mrs D.H.* Mellins, of London.

***Mr S.R. Woodland* and Miss T.H. Stead**
The engagement is announced *between Simon*, son of Mr and Mrs Don Woodland, of Steyning, West Sussex, and Tracy, daughter *of Mrs* Cherrie Stead, of Nyanga, Zimbabwe.

Marriages

Mr L.D. Chiswick and Miss K.L. Maxwell
The marriage took place on September 22, 1997, in California, of Mr Linton David Chiswick, son of Professor and Mrs Malcolm Chiswick, of Altrincham, Cheshire, to Miss Karen Laetitia Maxwell, elder daughter of Mr Richard Maxwell, QC, and Mrs Maxwell, of The Park, Nottingham.

Mr S.L. Franklin *and Miss A.C. Medd*
The marriage took place on September 28, in Las Vegas, between *Mr Steven Franklin, son of* Mr and Mrs Rodney Franklin, of Los Angeles, and Miss Alexandra *Medd, daughter of Mr and Mrs* Graham Medd, of London SW6.

Mr J.M. Lowrie and Miss J.A. Hubbard
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 27, at the Church of St John the Baptist, Windlesham, of Mr Julian Lowrie, son of Mr and Mrs John Lowrie, of Cranleigh, to Miss Juliet Hubbard, second daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hubbard, of Windlesham.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs K-J. Carr, Miss Charlotte Agnew, Miss Nicky Hubbard and Susannah and Charlie Carr. Mr Gavin Bishop was best man.

A reception was held at Meadowcroft and the honeymoon is being spent in Mauritius.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Richard Cromwell, Lord Protector 1658-59, London, 1626; Edmund Malone, scholar, Dublin, 1741; François Guizot, statesman and historian, Nîmes, 1787; Jean François Millet, painter, Gruchy, France, 1814; Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th American President 1877-81, Delaware, Ohio, 1822; Roger Keyes, Baron Keyes, Admiral of the Fleet, Tundiani Ford, Punjab, 1872; Damon Runyon, short story writer, Manhattan, Kansas, 1884; Engelbert Dollfuss, Chancellor of Austria 1932-34, Texing, Austria, 1892; Buster Keaton, actor, Piqua, Kansas, 1895.

DEATHS: St Teresa of Avila, Alba de Tormés, 1582; Rembrandt, painter, Amsterdam, 1669; Henry Carey, poet and musician, committed suicide, London, 1743; John Rennie, civil engineer, London, 1821; Karl Baedeker, guidebook publisher, Koblenz, 1859; Max Planck, physicist, Nobel laureate 1918, Gottingen, Germany, 1947; Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, aviator, Swansea, 1948; "Patsy" Hendren, England and Middlesex cricketer, London, 1962; Janis Joplin, rock singer, Hollywood, 1970; Glenn Gould, pianist, Toronto, 1982.

Miles Coverdale's version of the Bible was published, 1535.

The Boys' Brigade was founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith, 1883.

Portugal was proclaimed a republic when King Manuel II fled to Britain, 1910.

Russia launched the space satellite Sputnik 1, 1957.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Jonathan Edwards, theologian, East Windsor, Connecticut, 1703; Denis Diderot, philosopher and encyclopaedist, Langres, France, 1713; William Wilkie, "the Scottish Homer", Dalmeny, 1721; William Scoresby, clergyman and Arctic explorer, Whitby, 1789; Chester Arthur, 21st American President 1881-85, Fairfield, Vermont, 1830; Thomas Power O'Connor, journalist and politician, Athlone, 1848; Robert Hutchings Goddard, pioneer of rocketry, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1882.

DEATHS: Joachim Patenier, painter, Antwerp, 1524; Charles Cornwallis, 1st Marquess Cornwallis, soldier and statesman, Ghazipore, India, 1805; Jacques Offenbach, composer, Paris, 1880; Jean Vigo, film director, Paris, 1934; Alfred Koreber, anthropologist and archaeologist, Paris, 1960; *Leonard Rossiter, actor and com*edian, London, 1984.

Bulgaria declared its independence from Turkey, 1908.

Sir Arthur Lee donated Chequers to the nation as a country retreat for British prime ministers, 1917.

The R101 airship crashed near Beauvais, France, killing 47 people, 1930.

The Jarrow march of the unemployed began their journey to London, 1936.

Ronald Pickup as Rosalind and Jeremy Brett as Orlando in the 1967 production of *As You Like It*

ON THIS DAY

October 4, 1967

This production at the National Theatre of As You Like It, *starring many names now famous, did not impress Irving Wardle, the paper's drama critic, who remarked on its pointless eccentricities.*

COMIC RESULT WHEN MEN TAKE OVER FROM ACTRESSES

National Theatre
As You Like It
By William Shakespeare

Duke Senior	PAUL CURRAN
Frederick	FRANK WYLIE
Jaques	ROBERT STEPHENS
Orlando	JEREMY BRETT
Touchstone	DEREK JACOBI
Corin	GERALD JAMES
Rosalind	RONALD PICKUP
Celia	CHARLES KAY
Phoebe	RICHARD KAY
Audrey	ANTHONY HOPKINS

Directed by Clifford Williams

By Irving Wardle
Drama Critic

In a note on his production, Clifford Williams is at some pains to dissociate himself from *slavish dependence on Jan Kott whose* view of *As You Like It* as a work stretching back to the Florentine Renaissance and forward to Genet *occupies several pages of the National* Theatre programme.

Beyond linking the Elizabethan use of boy *actors as women with the modern, blurring of* sexual divisions the production owes little to Kott. It offers no grand design; and seems *mainly concerned with discovering (no doubt* to the wrath of the company's ladies) what happens when the women's parts are played by men. With the exception of Ronald Pickup's Rosalind, the result is entirely comic: and the comic variety *seems* very much a temperamental reflex of the different actors.

Charles Kay, for instance, clearly has no *fears about effeminacy (witness his recent* mincing performance in *The Constant Couple*); and his Celia, a mini-skirted governess *in owlish glasses, is an exercise in* suppressed camp.

But Anthony Hopkins's Audrey (the funniest *of all the performances) seems to have grown* out of embarrassment; and the result is a bass-voiced Brunnhilde who sits expressionlessly *through Touchstone's advances and then* grasps him in a bear-hug.

One of the oddities of the show is that Derek Jacobi's Touchstone (transformed into a Frankie Howerd gossip) is prettier than any of the girls. In itself the performance works, but in the surrounding context it seems perverse to change the aggressive Elizabethan clown into the victimised comedian of our own time.

Mr. Pickup's Rosalind, a beaky long-legged figure in a yachting suit, does conform to Kott's specification of the boy-girl — except that it is completely non-erotic. It begins demurely with a few well observed feminine gestures, and takes on character only during the Ganymede scenes. It is a blank that comes to life under the stress of intense platonic feeling; and there is real excitement in seeing this Rosalind and Jeremy Brett's very masculine Orlando being taken unawares by serious emotion in the midst of their game.

Otherwise the production works only spasmodically, and contains a number of pointless eccentricities.

Robert Stephens's Jaques is a peevish schoolmasterly misanthrope whose prune-face and hunched shoulders only leave one feeling *that the posture must be uncomfortable to* sustain.

Ralph Koltai's plastic decor — dangling *transparent tubes and dappled overhead cut*outs, and a variety of silver boots, PVC macs, and tattered regimentals — may relate to *modern costume; but it is hard to see what* contact they have with an Arcadia, whether sweet or bitter.

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Then Jesus said to them: 'Go to every part of the world, and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation'. Mark 16: 15

BIRTHS

ASPLAND - On 16th September 1997, to Audrey (née McCardle) and Marc, a son, James Cameron, after his proud grandfather.

BELL - On 22nd September at University College Hospital, London, to Sarah (née Hill) and Scott, a son, Christopher Benjamin, a brother for Scott.

BENNETT - On 24th September 1997, to Lisa (Graham) and Tony, a daughter, Emily Yiva.

BEVAN *- On 24th September in* Taunton, to Michelle (née Cooke) and Nicholas Charles Thorold, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary.

CHAPMAN-BIRD - On September 17th at Aberdeen, to Josephine and Christopher, a precious son, Christian Edward Anthony.

DAVIES - Graeme and Sarah *(née George) are delighted to* announce the safe arrival of Harry Racine on 20th September, a brother for Isabel.

DRISCOLL - On 27th September 1997, to Lee and Katey (*née Green*), a daughter, Charlotte Anne-Marie Carroll.

FINDLAY - On 2nd October 1997, to Charlie and Caroline (née Rowson), a son, Alastair Charles, a *brother for Christopher and* William.

GREEN - On September 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Denise (née Keller) and Darryl, a son, Tyler Benjamin.

JEAVONS-FELLOWS - On 23rd September 1997 at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Sally (née Powick) and Dick, sons, James Alfred and Isaac William.

LLEWELLYN JONES - On September 12th 1997, in London, to Hephzibah, a magical daughter, Olympia Lumière Petrus Orlando.

LOSEBY - On *August 26th* in Auckland, NZ, to Elizabeth (née Tamplin) and Richard, a daughter, Isobel Frances, a *sister for Thomas*.

MACKAY - On September 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Lucinda (née Pugh) and *Andrew, a son*, Percy.

NICOLLE - On October 1st, to Rebecca (née Crawley) and Hugo, a daughter, Mamie *Elspeth*.

PARFETT - On 30th September in High Wycombe, to David and Julia (née Gilmore), a daughter, *Rebecca* Emmeline.

PICKTHORN - On October 2nd, to Nicola (née Sheerin) and Tom, a daughter, Emma Frances Suzanne, a sister for Alice.

TWIGG-BROADBENT - On Monday 29th September 1997 at Halifax General Hospital, to Peter and Joanna, a son, James Daniel.

WEBSTER - On October 2nd in Hong Kong, to Jane and Julian, a daughter, Katie *Stanton, a sister for Jemima*.

YATES - On September 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Anna (née Jankowsky) and George, a son, George.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

LATHAM:AGNEW - Frederick Joseph to Joyce Irene. Married on 4th October 1947 at Holy Cross Church, Greenford. *Now living at Old* Welwyn, Hertfordshire, today celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Susan, Paul, Len, Nicola and their granddaughter Hannah, together with the rest of their family and friends send their congratulations and best wishes.

DEATHS

BIGGS - Muriel (Moo) *peacefully on October 1st at* the Bushey Beaumont Nursing Home, dearly beloved mother and mother-*in-law of Tricia and John*, devoted and much loved Nana to Mandy and Jo and great-grandmother to George, Milly and Alicia. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Funeral at 11am on Thursday 9th October at Holy Trinity Church, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, followed by cremation at 11.45 am at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip. Family flowers only. Donations if desired made payable to either Cancer Research or The National *Osteoporosis* Society and sent to E. Spark Ltd, 104 Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1BS.

CHALMERS - Suddenly at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on 1st *October 1997* Doris Hannah (née Woods), beloved wife of the late Cowper, O.B.E., and sister of George and Nancy also of the late Thomas, Frank and Marjorie. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Pentland Chapel on Tuesday October 7th at 2.15 pm.

DEXTER - Joan Minna peacefully at home on October 1st 1997, after a *long illness* borne with great courage. Beloved wife of Jack and much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral private at her request. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory if desired to - "The Cerne Abbas Surgery", Cerne Abbas, Dorset.

FAGG - Albert John Joseph (*Mike*) aged 81 years on 29th September 1997 peacefully after an illness borne with great fortitude *and faith*. A much loved husband of Kay. Beloved father of Hilary, Geraldine and Christopher, grandfather *of Emily and* Charlotte, brother and friend to many. Funeral at St Martins Parish Church, West Drayton, at 12 noon Tuesday 7th October followed by burial. Donations to *Alzheimer's Society c/o* H.C. Grimstead F/D tel: (01895) 431000.

JONAS - David Alan, *Solicitor*, aged 66 suddenly at home on 1st October. Sadly missed by all his friends and *colleagues at Hughmans and* all that knew and loved him both professionally and socially. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium Tuesday 7th October at 2.30pm. No flowers, *donations if desired to the* British Legion. Funeral and donation enquiries to: W.G. Miller. Tel: 0171-226 3886.

MACRORY - Elizabeth, aged 81, widow of Sir Patrick *Macrory, died suddenly but* peacefully on October 1st 1997. Sadly missed by her three sons, nine *grandchildren and Vicky*. Funeral at Leatherhead Crematorium at 4 pm Tuesday October 7th. *No flowers* please but donations to Celia Cross Greyhound Trust, White Lodge, Headley, Surrey.

McGWIRE - M.G.A. (Molly), *widow of G.W.F. (Dick)* McGwire of Hayes, Swanage, peacefully on October 3rd aged 97. Funeral *3.30 pm at St Mary's* on Tuesday October 7th.

McDONALD - Graeme Patrick *Daniel McDonald OBE*, born 30th July 1930, died 29th September 1997 in The Chelsea and Westminster *Hospital*, beloved companion of Miguel Fernandez. Cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium 9th October 1997 at 2.30pm. No flowers by request. If desired donations to Crusaid, 11 Carteret Street, London SW1H 9DJ.

MURLEY - On 2nd October 1997 at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers (Sister Agnes), Reginald Sydney (Reggie) aged 81, after a gallant fight against great *odds. Loving* husband *of* Daphne (née Garrod), stepfather to Susan, father to Jennifer, David, Gavin, Hilary and Anthony and grandfather to Zachary, Dominic, Pascoe, Francesca, Dean, Marc, Gemma, Toby and Annabelle. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced later.

O'CONNOR - Neil, Dr., died suddenly 1st October aged 80. Eminent Research Psychologist. Deeply loved husband and father. A unique person of great wit *and perception*. Funeral 1pm Friday October 10th at Putney Vale Cemetery, Stag Lane, Putney, SW15. Family *flowers only*. Donations if wished for Mental Health Research made to Mrs M. O'Connor c/o Ross and Craig *(Ref JMP)*, 12A Upper Berkeley Street, London W1H 7PE.

ODLING-SMEE - Katharine Hamilton MB. ChB. DPH. on October 1st 1997 peacefully at *The District Hospital*, Moreton-in-Marsh. Funeral at St John's, Brearton, on Tuesday October 7th at 1pm, and afterwards at The Brearton Institute.

RICHES - Sir Derek Martin *Hurry Riches*, K.C.M.G., died on October 1st, 1997, after a short illness, at Kingston Hospital. Much loved *husband of the late Helen*, father of Mary Lamberton and grandfather of Eleanor, Derek and Mark. Cremation private. A thanksgiving service will be held at St Anne's Church, Kew Green on Friday, October 10th, 1997 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The Abbeyfield (Richmond Thames & District) Society Ltd., 4 Ennerdale Road, Kew, Surrey TW9 3PG.

SCANDRETT - District Judge William James Dyson M.A. (Cantab.) died at home, peacefully with great courage and dignity, on 2nd October 1997, aged 49. Much loved and greatly missed by his wife Caroline, their children Catherine, Elizabeth and Edward, his parents Basil and Dee and his brother Peter. We are supported by his guidance and example. Service of Thanksgiving to be held at 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 8th October 1997 at St George's Church, Brailes. Please no flowers but donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Relief or St George's Church Reparation Fund c/o R. Locke & Son, Brailes, nr. Banbury, Oxon. OX15 5AZ.

SHAPLAND - On October 1st *peacefully in his garden Sir* William Shapland aged 84 years. Greatly loved by his wife Madeline, his daughters Janet and Anne *and all his* family. He will be sadly missed by many. A private service will be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday October 10th at 12.30 pm. Flowers and donations (Heart and Lung Foundation) may be sent to Leverton & Sons, 1 Dunmack Terrace, Fortis Green, N2 (0181-444 5753). A *Memorial* Service will be arranged in due course.

SIDGREAVES - Carl Damain aged *60* years on October 2nd peacefully in hospital after a courageous fight against leukaemia. Dearly *loved* husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Christchurch, Clifton, Bristol, on Thursday October 9th at 2 pm, followed by cremation at Canford. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Haematology Unit (*Staff* Fund), Southmead Hospital, c/o R. Davies & Son, 63 Westbury Hill, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

SMURTHWAITE - On Wednesday October 1st Jennifer Clare (Jennie), dearly loved daughter of Jon and Gillian and sister of Robin. Funeral Thursday *October 9th* at 3 pm at Amersham Crematorium, Bucks. No flowers please, but if you wish, a donation *to The British Heart* Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH.

THORNTON - Molly (Margaret Marion Gwendolen (née Gault)) in peace and at home *on the 1st of October, in her* 93rd year. Deeply loved and admired throughout her long life, by her many friends and *family*. Cremation private. A service of thanksgiving will take place at a later date. 'Ad Majorem Gloriam Dei'

WEDDERSPOON - Nancy Isabella aged 83 in hospital after a mercifully brief illness. Dear aunt to Jennifer and Tinka, surrogate aunt to Sean and Candida, great-aunt to Chamouni and Sehriol, surrogate great-aunt to Nathan and Luke. Funeral on Tuesday, October 7th at 3pm at Mortlake Crematorium. No flowers please, donations welcomed to the Harefield Hospital Fund, c/o Mrs Pam Warner, Harefield, UB9 6JH.

IN *MEMORIAM* — PRIVATE

MINTO - Euan Morton died 5th October 1996. In loving memory *of* a dear son, brother and uncle, who achieved so much in a life that was all too short. Always *in* our thoughts. William Minto and family.

BIRTHDAYS

ANDREW Thomas Chamberlain, becomes a teenager today. Love and best wishes from all the family.

BOUTELL Luke. Happy 18th Birthday. Enjoy your first legal pint! Much love from M, D, Z, E, A, H.

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OBITUARIES

BRYAN INGHAM

Bryan Ingham, painter and sculptor, died of cancer on September 22 aged 61. He was born in Preston on June 11, 1936.

Throughout most of his career Bryan Ingham was closely associated in the public's mind with St Ives. This was not exactly true, either of his background or of his place of residence, but in a more general way it was fair enough; even at a glance his work showed that it clearly belonged to the St Ives family of semi-abstraction, and showed a particular kinship with the art of Ben Nicholson, doyen of the St Ives school.

The connection, however, was much more complex and indirect than at first appeared. For one thing, Ingham liked to work in isolation from the cliques and côteries. Therefore, though not so far from St Ives as the crow flies, ensconced as he was in his isolated cottage overlooking the Lizard and Kynance Cove, Ingham seldom made the cross-Cornwall journey and spent most of his time working away furiously, all by himself, for as much of the year as he could bear to live without electricity and drink only water from his well.

But he did not settle in Cornwall until the Sixties, long after Nicholson had left St Ives, and his artistic allegiances were almost entirely with the St Ives of the Thirties and the war years, rather than with the second generation of free-form abstractionists like Lanyon, Hilton and Frost.

Nor did Ingham have many perceptible connections with any other contemporaries. He was busy defining himself, largely in solitude, at just the time that the Pop Art movement was asserting itself. He had in fact been a close contemporary of Hockney at the Royal College, but one cannot by any stretch of the imagination think of him exhibiting alongside Hockney, Patrick Caulfield, Patrick Procktor and Allen Jones at the Whitechapel Art Gallery's influential *New Generation 1964* show.

GRACE KNOWLTON

He seemed then, as subsequently, to belong in a different world — a world all his own. A good case can be made, indeed, for his having been a premature Post-Modernist, one who drew his inspiration from other art, and especially art of a different era, rather than from direct experience with the "real" world outside.

Undeniably, as artists go he was well-versed in the history of art, and certainly, while evolving his own style, was well aware of early Nicholson and indeed of some of Nicholson's sources in the Analytical and Synthetic Cubism of Picasso and Braque. But he also knew all about Uccello, and Giorgio Morandi was one of his favourites among 20th-century artists.

Also, a sense of external reality, particularly of place, is vital to all his work. It would certainly not have taken the forms it did if it had not been done in the midst of Cornish rocky landscapes, close to the sea.

Because of his resolutely unworldly approach to his art, Ingham took longer than most of his generation to make an impact on the public at large and build up a global reputation.

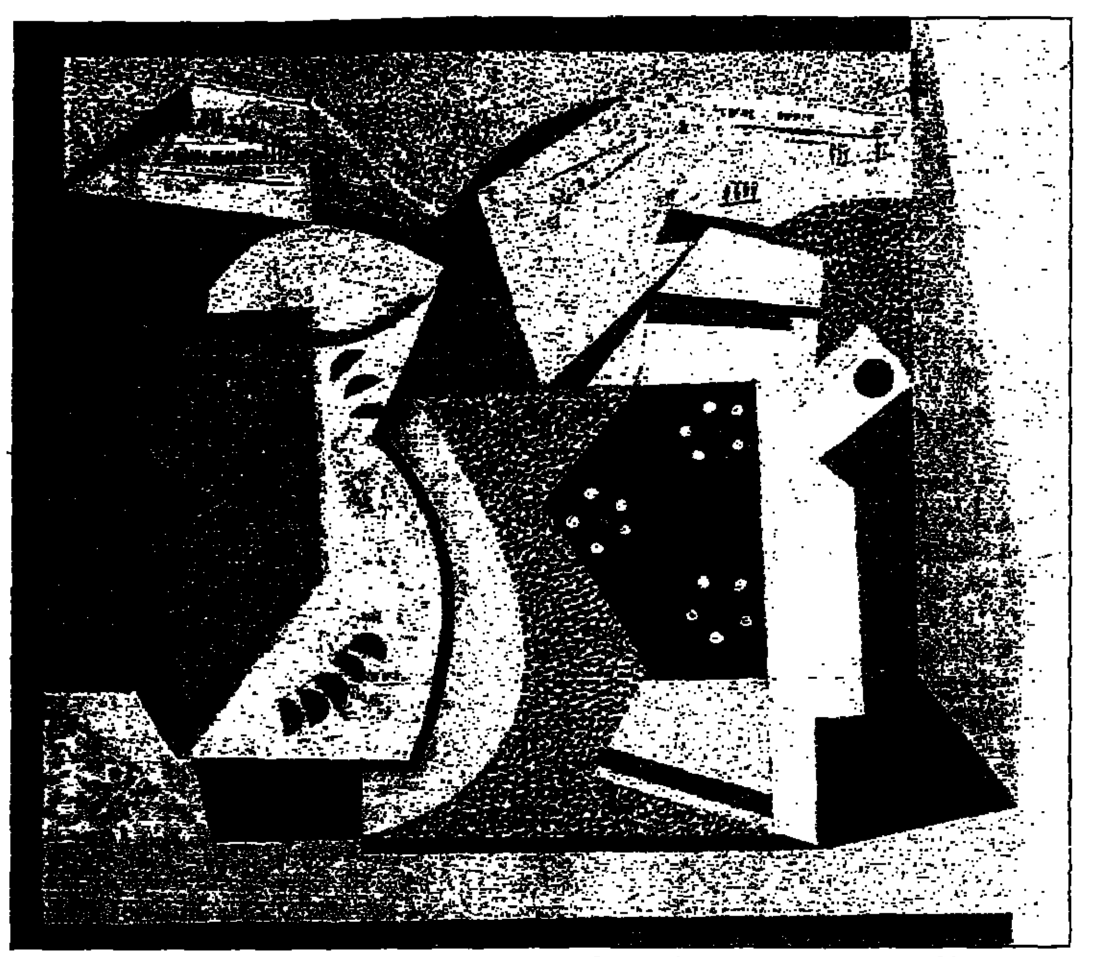
From the start he had a dedicated band of collectors, and seemed content to work for himself and for them, subsisting on the very minimum, financially speaking. It was not until the mid-Eighties that he acquired a regular London dealer, and though he had his moments of ready conviviality he never really belonged to the organised art world.

Possibly his personal background had something to do with this. He was born into a working-class family in Lancashire; both his parents worked in the textile industry, as he did himself when he left school at 15. It is recorded that when his father asked him what he thought he wanted to do for a living, and he answered that he hoped to be a painter, his father was very happy, assuming that what he wanted to paint was houses. However, when his true meaning was revealed, his parents were as supportive as they could afford to be.

At the age of 18 he was called up for National Service in the RAF, and did not enter art school until he was 21. First it was St Martin's, where he showed a particular skill in draughtsmanship. As a result of this he was able to enter the Royal College of Art in 1961, and in 1962 was voted a Royal Scholarship.

On leaving he made ends meet, like so many young artists, by teaching jobs and the occasional sale or commission. Before long he found his way to Cornwall, and the solitary lifestyle to which he was adhere for the rest of his life. During the spring, summer and autumn he would work at his Cornish cottage, Jollytown, only leaving when the cold and inconvenience became too much to bear.

Then, as a matter of routine, he would move to Germany to the village of Worpswede in Lower Saxony, which had been an important art colony at the turn of the century. There the climate was hardly preferable, but at least he was living in the centre of the village, with a few more amenities. In Germany also he met the Turkish poet Aysel Ozakin, whom he married in 1989.



Italian coast in abstract: a late Ingham work, *Two Jugs and Landscape*, 1996

As he gradually became more recognised and prosperous he began to travel more extensively, working in Tuscany and Malta, and finding his way round the art worlds of Paris, Berlin and Barcelona. As far as his exhibited work was concerned, he was known entirely as a painter and printmaker. As with Nicholson, some of his paintings and collages had a dimensional aspect, turning into low reliefs. But throughout this time he was making, if only for his private satisfaction, a number of sculptures and assemblages involving found wood and other materials. Last year he had his first show of sculpture, in St Ives, in association with related prints and drawings. As well as being highly effective in themselves, the sculptures somehow brought the rest of his work into clearer focus, demonstrating the consistency of his inspiration throughout his career.

At that time he did not know how little time he had left before the as yet undiagnosed cancer would take hold. But in a way the show made a fitting rounding-off: the paintings in his last show, held in London this spring, when he already knew he was dying, suggested no falling off in quality or vitality. Always a prolific and obsessed artist, he had the satisfaction of knowing he had made his statement and could depart in peace.

His marriage was dissolved in 1994; he had no children.

SIR ANTHONY DAWSON

Sir Anthony Dawson, KCVO, Physician to the Queen, 1982-93, died on September 25 after a heart attack aged 69. He was born on May 8, 1928.

TONY DAWSON was one of the outstanding doctors in this country. A testimony to his clinical ability was his appointment as royal physician but he also made major contributions to clinical science and took the lead in many administrative and other non-clinical enterprises.

It was as a clinician that he was most distinguished. He was a brilliant diagnostician, now perhaps an old-fashioned term in this age of electronic medicine, though still as valuable and necessary as ever.

In spite of a huge workload, including a large private practice, he was never in a hurry, or never seemed to be. He was calm and sympathetic, so it was natural for the patient to trust him and it was natural for him to feel for the patient and his relatives. There was no need to remind him to talk to the patient's family, nor to express himself openly and in clear terms. If he did not know something, he said so.

It seemed natural and right that in 1982 he should be appointed Physician to the Queen and in 1989 physician in charge of HM medical household. In spite of the responsibility of this appointment he would be calm, even languid, when he was talking to a colleague about a medical problem. As a sign of his personal modesty, even at the peak of his eminence he still regarded it as a compliment when his colleagues came, or brought their wives, to consult him — or perhaps it was Audrey Lawrence they came to see, his indispensable secretary who worked for him for 35 years.

Everything he touched he enhanced. Perhaps his most remarkable achievement was the quiet revolution he wrought at St Bartholomew's Hospital. When he was appointed to the staff of that ancient institution it appeared to be lost in its traditions and was not a competitor in the race of medical advance then in full swing. He was almost the first non-Bart's man to become a consultant there, and was the first to have special sessions for research.

He soon recruited bright young physicians and research workers to his unit, which became a magnet for patients with difficult bowel problems; the whole intellectual atmosphere of the hospital and medical school was transformed. All the members of his own unit met every Friday afternoon to review their patients, occasions which were searching, brisk and, above all, fun. He also took the lead in administrative affairs, perhaps his most important change being to end the system of chairmanship of committees being decided by seniority. This at once stopped the tendency for senior appointments at Bart's to be confined to Bart's men.

His own research was in intestinal physiology and its disorders. In this he received great stimulus from a two-year fellowship in Boston in 1957-59 when he worked with a star-studded cast, even by Harvard standards. Among them was Kurt Isselbacher, who came from the National Institutes of Health to take over the gastro-intestinal unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital. But he was a scientist not a clinician, so Dawson took charge of the clinical side.

The pair worked on the absorption of amino acids and peptides from the gut and on the passage of fats through the intestinal wall, work which still stands today, 40 years later. He did once put a foot wrong: he blew up the laboratory by putting a dish of uncovered ether in a fridge over a long hot weekend. Isselbacher, so far from bawling him out, was delighted; his department was able to be re-equipped from the insurance money and he mounted the wrecked fridge in the front hall of the hospital.

While in America Dawson was offered permanent appointments in Boston and California but decided to return to Britain, partly because of the intervention of his former and future chief, Dame Sheila Sherlock. She ordered Dawson home, having already put in an application on his behalf for a post in the new department at the Royal Free Hospital, where she was the first Professor of Medicine. The other outstanding influence on Dawson's career was Sir Francis Avery Jones. It was during Dawson's time with him that his choice of speciality was decided.

Dawson's role in gastroenterology was unique in that he never learnt to pass telescopes into the gut (endoscopy), a technique which was becoming popular then and is now the main activity of many gastroenterologists, sometimes taking the place, so Dawson thought, of history-taking, physical examination and thinking.

Dawson loved Bart's and Bart's, having recruited this strange new animal of clinician-scientist, loved him. His decency, kindness and good manners enabled him to produce changes without any blood being spilt. He was essentially a quiet revolutionary. His teaching was famous. He welcomed students from other medical "firms" on his teaching rounds and the students responded to his clinical feel. Professor Lesley Rees, later Dean of Bart's, went on his inaugural ward round when she was a student and remembers it as a "breath of fresh air".

A remarkable innovation over 25 years ago was to appoint a psychiatrist to his clinic which, dealing with bowel disorders, included many cases in which emotional factors were important. He later chaired a working party of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Psychiatrists on the emotional aspects of physical disorder. He also created an RCP working party on homelessness and health, another illustration of the breadth of his interests.

Anthony Michael Dawson did his undergraduate medical training at King's College London and Charing Cross Hospital, qualifying in 1951. After junior appointments he was appointed to the consultant staff of St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1965, retiring in 1986. He had numerous apppointments on medical bodies and was an examiner for the Royal College of Physicians.

Dawson had a huge zest for life and had many interests — music (opera, especially), wine, gardening and good company among them. He was prevented from being a sportsman by tuberculosis of a knee as a child which made him limp and often gave him pain. This he never mentioned. As chairman of the Council of the British Heart Foundation he showed, in the phrase of a colleague, "good-humoured authority", words which well describe the man.

In 1956 he married Anne Forsyth, a dietician on Avery Jones's unit at the Central Middlesex. She and their two daughters survive him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF DTN RESEARCH LIMITED NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at Baker Tilly, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London on 13 October 1997 at 11.00am for the purpose of dealing with Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Richard Paul Sandle of Baker Tilly, Scottish Life House, 154 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3HN is the licensed insolvency practitioner who will provide creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated: 26 September 1997
By Order of the Board
S K Porter
Director

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

RE: LESLIE GERALD MATTHEWS, DECEASED
PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 Section 27

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of LESLIE GERALD MATTHEWS late of 1 Pump Court, London EC4, who died on 24 February 1997 and whose Will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Family Division of the High Court on 29 July 1997 by JOHN HARVEY ASHDOWN and BRIDGET HELEN TAYLOR the executors named in it ("the executors") are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors whose address is 378 City Road, London EC1V 2QA on or before 6 December 1997, after which date the executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which they have had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they have not had notice of by the above date.
Dated 4 October 1997
Winstanley-Burgess, solicitors for the executors.

TAYLOR, Derek Henry late of 4 Fernham Close, Oadby, Leicestershire who died on 2nd August 1997. Particulars to Philip J. Hammond & Sons, Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester LE1 5QX (Ref: OS 44 597) before 5th December 1997.

IAN CLIVE MORLEY of 49, Fairview Road, Hungerford Berks died 24/6/97, particulars to Charles Lucas & Marshall Solicitors, 28 High Street, Hungerford Berks RG17 0NF before 22nd December 1997

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

WINDER, Mrs Elizabeth Winifred Maud late of 1 Windsor Way, Aylestone, Leicester, who died on 26th August 1997. Particulars to Philip J. Hammond & Sons, Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester LE1 5QX (Ref: OS 44656/70) before 5th December 1997.

ALBERT JOHN CHAMBERLAIN of 1, Cold Harbour Cottages, Inkpen Road, Hungerford Berks died 10/7/97, particulars to Charles Lucas & Marshall Solicitors, 28 High Street, Hungerford Berks RG17 0NF before 22nd December 1997

ANNIE GRANT MACGREGOR of Sleepy Hollow, Oxford Street, Eddington, Hungerford Berks died 16/9/97, particulars to Charles Lucas & Marshall Solicitors, 28 High Street, Hungerford Berks RG17 0NF before 22nd December 1997

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FAX: 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

JOHN FLEMING

John Fleming, academic lawyer, died on September 22 aged 78. He was born on July 6, 1919.

JOHN FLEMING was best known for his path-breaking treatise *The Law of Torts*, which since 1957 has been the essential guide to the traditions, subtleties and changes in the law of personal injury in the Anglo-American legal system. Unlike any other such work, the book weaves together analyses of legal developments in Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States — a comparative approach which reflects Fleming's long academic career on three continents. Just a few weeks ago, Fleming completed work on the ninth edition. In the House of Lords recently, Lord Cooke spoke of Fleming as "the doyen of living tort writers".

Born in Berlin, John Gunther Fleming went to school at Brentwood in Essex before going up to read jurisprudence at Brasenose College, Oxford. After graduating in 1941, he distinguished himself in the Royal Tank Corps in North Africa and Italy.

When the war was over he moved to London, married and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. His career as a lecturer in law began at King's College London. In 1948 he received his DPhil from Oxford, and the following year he emigrated with his young family to Canberra, where he worked at Canberra University College.

Fleming flourished in Australia, helping to found the Law School at the Australian National University, and becoming its first Dean. Then *The Law of Torts* brought him international acclaim, and after ten years in Australia he was wooed to America. After a year's visiting professorship at Berkeley, he was offered a permanent post. He was keen to accept, but the American State Department reportedly anticipated accusations of raiding Australian academics, and so denied him a visa. These diplomatic trials meant it was two years before he joined the Boalt Hall law faculty, where he remained for the rest of his life.

During his years in California, Fleming received several honours from Britain. Brasenose made him an honorary fellow in 1980; he was Goodhart Professor of Law at Cambridge in 1987-88.

Between 1972 and 1987 Fleming was editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Comparative Law*, establishing it as the leader in its field. He wrote more than a hundred articles and reviews for legal journals, as well as two further books, *Introduction to the Law of Torts* (1967) and *The American Tort Process* (1988). He served as president of the International Association of Legal Science and the American Association of Comparative Law. He also enjoyed visiting professorships in Michigan, Singapore and Witwatersrand.

Fleming's persistent attention to the ways that various nations solve their legal problems has permanently influenced the thinking of academics and lawyers in America, Europe and the Commonwealth, and is perhaps increasingly important to the global economy.

Occasionally, Fleming ventured into the political part of his field. One year, for example, his colleagues were surprised to see his name on a California ballot pamphlet in support of a voter initiative intended to curb legal fees in personal injury cases.

An enthusiastic sailor, Fleming was a member of California's Richmond Yacht Club. He was also a a collector of 19th-century French paperweights. He is survived his wife, Valerie, three sons and a daughter.

MILESTONES

Roy Lichtenstein, artist, died on September 29 aged 73. He was born on October 27, 1923.

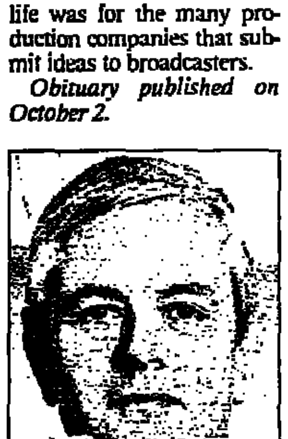
One of the leading figures in Pop Art, along with Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein was 38 when he exhibited a series of paintings hugely enlarged from cartoon books. His work became very fashionable with the cognoscenti, and soon made him very rich. His most famous canvases explored both the simplified images and the technical processes of mass-reproduction, but he also produced pastiches of paintings by past masters, and sculptural pieces in other media. Anything but a Bohemian, he observed regular hours in a substantial and highly organised studio, with several assistants, taking an hour for lunch every day in the same restaurant. As a result of this discipline, he became something of a mass-producer himself.

Obituary published on October 1.

Graeme McDonald, OBE, television executive, died on September 30 aged 67. He was born on July 30, 1930.

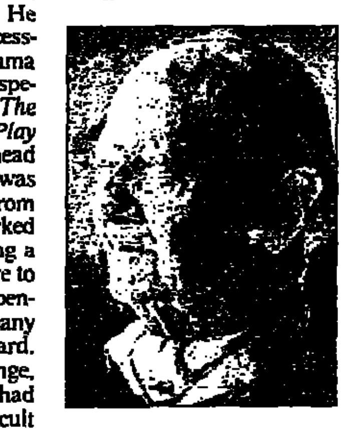
During a career of more than 35 years in television, Graeme McDonald rose through the ranks, from trainee director at Granada to Controller of BBC2. He enjoyed a long and successful stint in the BBC drama department, working especially on the series *The Wednesday Play* and *Play for Today*. He became head of drama in 1981, and was Controller of BBC2 from 1983 to 1987. He then worked for Anglia, before making a bold and surprising move to work for a small independent production company alongside Prince Edward. Faced with this challenge, he admitted that he had never realised how difficult life was for the many production companies that submit ideas to broadcasters.

Obituary published on October 2.



Milner Gray, CBE, graphic designer, died on September 29 aged 97. He was born on October 8, 1899.

Milner Gray helped to found the Society of Industrial Artists, so formalising the role of designers in industry. He had been one of the first in Britain to recognise the importance of the Bauhaus and similar movements, and in his various partnerships and in different art colleges, he went on to train many of the leading designers of successive generations. He was active in many spheres, from designing ceramics with his lifelong friend Graham Sutherland, to wartime propaganda, designs for the Festival of Britain, the *Oriana* and the livery for British Rail. His talent ranged from heraldry to the identity of chains of pubs. He was also known for his mimicry of Queen Victoria.



Obituary published on October 3.

هكذا من الأصل

Gilts and equities end week firm

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THE TIMES

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35	Metsec	Engin'ing	
36	Gen Accident	Insurance	
37	Cardiff Prop	Property	
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Winter of content

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HOT SEAT 30
Canny Scott makes his pitch and wins

BUSINESS

WEEKEND
MONEY
SECTION 2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 1997

Burger bun boss departs with £70m

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE man who for 20 years has supplied the hamburger buns that have fed McDonald's UK expansion has cashed in his chips — or should that be french fries — for £70.5 million.

Brian Maguire, who will be 60 tomorrow, has sold his Golden West Foods business to Tomkins, the manufacturing group that owns Ranks Hovis McDougall. When Mr Maguire joined Golden West as bakery general manager shortly after its formation in 1977, McDonald's had just 7 restaurants. Today it has more than 780.

Golden West, meanwhile, has grown from eight employees to 750. The firm, based in Hemel Hempstead, is the sole UK supplier of buns, ketchups and the syrups that go into milkshakes and other drinks to McDonald's.

It is also supporting McDonald's expansion into Europe, and is completing the building of a new factory in Belgium. Last year the firm, which also takes care of warehousing and distribution, made an £8 million operating profit on sales of £68.7 million. Remarkably, it does not have a written contract with its all-important customer.

Golden West was originally a joint venture between McDonald's and an American food business. During the 1980s, Mr Maguire bought out first West Baking and then McDonald's in 1989. The company's rapid growth saw him figure in this year's Rich List in *The Sunday Times*. It estimated his wealth at £45 million. Mr Maguire is said to be publicity shy. He is married with three daughters. And by coincidence, he began his career as a management trainee with Ranks Hovis McDougall in 1960.

Greg Hutchings, executive chairman of Tomkins, said Golden West was an excellent business.

Tempus, page 31

Barclays chief under pressure to secure sale

German bank heads list of BZW bidders

BY ADAM JONES

COMMERZBANK of Germany heads the list of potential bidders for the BZW investment banking operations put up for sale by Barclays yesterday.

Armed with a DM1.5 billion (£530 million) war chest, the smallest of Frankfurt's Big Three banks is the only one without a major presence in London. It is under enormous pressure to catch up with Deutsche Bank, owner of Morgan Grenfell, and Dresdner, which owns Kleinwort Benson.

Other possible buyers are believed to include ING Barings and Credit Suisse First Boston. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said there had been no talks with buyers, although there had been a certain amount of "flirting". Banking analysts said yesterday that Mr Taylor would have to move quickly to restore credibility in his stewardship of Barclays. His failure to announce the actual disposal of BZW yesterday caused shares of Barclays to fall 49½p, to £16.97½, with almost 15 million shares being traded.

In a 7.30am meeting attended by hundreds of staff at BZW's Canary Wharf headquarters, Mr Taylor confirmed that the investment bank's equities and corporate finance businesses will be sold. The decision signals an end to Barclays' ambitions to make BZW a global player in investment banking. Having repeatedly declared his faith in an integrated retail and investment bank, Mr Taylor is now under pressure to come up with a quick sale.

The businesses put up for sale generated combined revenues of about £200 million in the six months to June 30, out of a BZW total of £692 million, leading to estimates that they could fetch between £400 million and £500 million.

Bill Harrison, BZW chief executive, resigned on Thursday night, saying the role he was brought in to play no longer existed.

Directors of Barclays enjoy a one-year notice period. Mr Harrison was paid £2.85 million last year, including a £1.5 million signing-on bonus. He could receive an estimated £2 million in compensation and will help prepare the businesses for disposal.

Mr Taylor said the sale had been recommended to the board two weeks ago. Certain members of staff had been briefed earlier this week before the sale became widely known on Thursday night.

Mr Taylor said there will be redundancies, although it is too early to know how many. Much will depend on how much of BZW's back office operation, which employs 3,500 of the bank's 7,500 staff, will be contained in the deal, and this depended on the requirements of the buyer.

The remaining BZW operations — including foreign exchange and other markets businesses — will be brought together as Barclays Capital Group, headed by Robert Diamond, currently markets chief executive.

Mr Taylor said the decision to sell had been taken when the cost of establishing BZW as a global force in equities and corporate finance had become clear.

The sale would not require Barclays to rethink its strategy, Mr Taylor added: "This is relatively small disposal." He would not say what the proceeds of the sale would be used for as speculation of a possible share buyback circulated. Costs of as much as £100 million could reduce the net proceeds, SBC Warburg analysts predicted yesterday.

The analysts said that Mr Taylor had "made the right decision", suggesting it will leave Barclays freer for merger deals with retail partners in the UK.

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Why now? page 30

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief executive, after yesterday's staff briefing on the disposal

Shares soar to record on EMU talk

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

SHARE prices soured to a new record and government bond prices hit four-year highs on more positive comments from Labour on the single currency and weaker than expected American jobs figures.

The FTSE 100 index jumped 34.7 points to close at 5,330.8. In the gilts market, the December gilt future moved 1¼ points higher, its best level since late 1993.

The markets took off early after comments from Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, on RTE Irish radio that the Government had not ruled out membership of the single currency in the first wave on January 1, 1999. The pound dropped more than two pfennigs against the mark.

The Treasury swiftly moved to counter his remarks, saying it remained unlikely that Britain would join in 1999 but that it was keeping its options open. Rallying stocks and bonds then reversed direction.

However, markets were given another boost with news that America had created 215,000 jobs outside the farms sector in September, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 4.9 per cent.

The increase in non-farm payrolls was considerably less than the 330,000 rise that US economists had been predicting and sent Wall Street on a buying spree. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped more than 100 points in the first 15 minutes of trading.

Before the stock market opened, the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose almost two points, taking its yield down briefly to 6.17 per cent, its lowest level since February 1996.

The jobs figures are perceived as the most important indicator for American interest rates and yesterday's release convinced traders that a US rate rise is less likely.

Wall Street came off its early highs but remained strong in early afternoon trading when the Dow Jones was 45.43 points higher, at 8,072.96.

Slowdown, page 28
Market report, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5330.8	(+34.7)
Yield	3.06%	
FTSE All share	2492.41	(+15.12)
Nikkei	17647.45	(+192.41)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8091.38	(+63.85)*
S&P Composite	971.28	(+10.82)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5⁷⁄₁₆%)
Long Bond	102⅞*	(100⅞)
Yield	6.20%*	(6.30%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7¼%	(7¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	121⅛	(120¹¹⁄₁₆)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6145*	(1.6160)
London:		
$	1.6120	(1.6161)
DM	2.8411	(2.8558)
FFr	9.5476	(9.5947)
SFr	2.3395	(2.3450)
Yen	197.08	(195.55)
£ Index	100.1	(100.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7595*	(1.7725)
FFr	5.9407*	(5.9580)
SFr	1.4486*	(1.4555)
Yen	121.91*	(121.65)
$ Index	105.2	(105.0)

Tokyo close Yen 122.94

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	$21.15	($20.55)

GOLD

London close	$333.30	($323.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Slowdown

Activity in the booming service sector of the economy is slowing down, reducing the chances of an interest rate rise. The UK Purchasing Managers' monthly report out yesterday stated that prices charged by service companies fell for the first time since October 1996. Economists said the survey showed that the four interest rate rises since the election were starting to bite.
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Grounded

Boeing is to stop production of its jumbo 747 jets for 20 days because of a shortage of parts. The world's biggest commercial jet manufacturer is also scaling back production of the latest versions of its 737 jets, installing parts as they become available. Boeing has struggled to keep up with a huge rise in orders for commercial aircraft.
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Patriot likely to be Arcadian bidder

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PATRIOT American Hospitality was last night being touted as the mystery bidder for Arcadian International, the provincial hotel operator based in Surrey.

Arcadian, which has a market capitalisation of around £90 million, revealed it had received an approach early last week, but even yesterday, as it issued interim results, Robert Breare, chief executive, said simply: "There is no change in the status of the bid talks announced last month."

Although Patriot, a US real estate investment trust (REIT), is thought to be in poll position, there were suggestions that Starwood Lodging Trust, a rival REIT, may consider a counterbid.

REITs are publicly traded pools of property assets that have tax-free status and offer investors a stable income. There are more than 180 REITs in the US with a market value of $100 billion.

Patriot, which in April bought Wyndham Hotel Corporation of the US for $1 billion, is expected to retain Mr Breare and his management team and provide extra funding for expansion. The focus for expansion will probably be the Malmaison joint venture, which is being rolled out as a pan-European brand.

Arcadian yesterday reported first-half pre-tax profits more than doubled to £1.1 million. Earnings were 0.7p a share (0.3p) and the interim dividend, due on November 11, rises from 0.12p to 0.14p.

Pace recruits Sega head in revival bid

THE head of Sega's European operations has been recruited in an attempt to restore the fortunes of Pace Micro Technology (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Malcolm Miller will join Pace, the troubled producer of satellite television receiving equipment, this year. A former marketing director and managing director of Amstrad, he will be sole chief executive.

In February Barry Rubery, joint chief executive, left the company because of "irreconcilable differences in management style".

Shares in Pace, which floated last year, have slumped to 57p from 241½p mainly because orders for digital television decoders have been slower to come through than expected.

WorldCom to reassure MCI

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BERNARD EBBERS, the WorldCom chairman, is expected to hold talks with Bert Roberts, the MCI chairman, this weekend.

WorldCom, whose $30 billion bid for MCI threatens to scupper the latter's $24 billion merger with British Telecom, will try to alleviate fears that MCI executives will be purged if the bid is successful.

Mr Ebbers, who aggressively grew WorldCom through acquisitions, has a reputation for firing top executives from newly acquired businesses. After the $12 billion takeover of MFS Communications last year, James Crowe, the chairman, and other board members departed quickly.

Analysts emphasised that it would be vital for WorldCom to retain MCI executives because its own experience in the residential phone market is minimal. WorldCom has concentrated on corporate and Internet business. Mr Ebbers met with investors and analysts yesterday and was said to have addressed the issue of board changes.

He also discussed the synergies that could result from the WorldCom bid. WorldCom's share price rose 2 per cent after the meetings.

Yesterday WorldCom downplayed legal action it has taken in a Delaware court against MCI and BT. A spokesman called the action "routine" and said it was designed to immobilise MCI's "poison pill" defence against hostile takeovers.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Remember Big Bang? A decade ago, the clubbish world of de Zoete & Bevan, Wedd Durlacher, and other venerable names, had been swept away: caught up in the tide of money flooding into the Square Mile from around the globe.

The stock market soared on the back of a frenzy of dealmaking, oblivious to what was soon to sweep in from the North Atlantic. This time in 1987 the Hurricane and Crash were just two weeks away, but a reckless City raced on, blind to its fate.

It is all starting to look worryingly familiar. A cornerstone of the Big Bang crumbled this week when Barclays took the jack-hammer to BZW, but elsewhere the Eighties' fever continued to spread, inviting cheeky retail bids and furious bouts of transatlantic gazumping. Tim Waterstone, one-time bookseller, now in children's clothing, decided it would be fun to bid for WH Smith, which has been looking a little dog-eared of late. He seemed genuinely surprised when Smith told him where to go with his £1 billion offer.

One can only imagine the expression on the face of Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom, when he heard that his $24 billion merger with MCI, the long-distance US telephone operator, had been pipped by a $30 billion offer from WorldCom, a US rival. After more than a year in the planning, this was not what he wanted to hear, even if BT stood to make £1.7 billion from its stake in MCI, plus $450 million in penalty payments. There were mixed feelings at Salomon, the US investment bank, which took a bath on its arbitrage punt on BT-MCI, but can look forward to a brisk rub-down in its lucrative role as adviser to WorldCom.

Sour grapes, meanwhile, in the boardroom at Safeway, after word leaked out of an unsuccessful attempt to lock shopping trolleys with Asda. The £9 billion deal would have created the UK's largest supermarket group, and there are some who think that it might still happen. Similar misery at Somerset House, as it became apparent that millions were going to miss the first deadline for the new self-assessment tax forms. The Inland Revenue has blown £25 million in the hope of chivvying people along.

Greed and envy erupted in Newcastle upon Tyne, when the former Northern Rock building society came to the stock market, bringing its members a windfall of about £2,300 each. One in three households in the North East of England is expected to benefit, leaving lace curtains across the region twitching with annoyance.

Friends Provident became the latest financial services group to pay for the zeal of all those pushy pensions salesmen when it was fined a record £450,000 for dragging its feet over pensions mis-selling. Midland Bank was tarred with the same brush, receiving a £150,000 fine.

This week's alternative lottery winner is Bill Harrison, who bows out from BZW after one year as chief executive. Harrison earned £2.5 million for four months' work in 1996 — most of it a "golden hello". Takeovers, meanwhile, are expected to net City advisers £1.2 billion in fees this year. Long live the Eighties.

JON ASHWORTH

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Salomon post for Myojin

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

SHIGERU MYOJIN, the flamboyant, baseball hat-wielding Salomon Brothers trader who received a $31 million pay cheque this year, has been made a vice-chairman of Salomon Smith Barney, the investment bank arm of Travelers Group, after its $9 billion (£5.6 million) merger with Salomon.

Mr Myojin, 47, becomes a member of the Salomon Smith Barney management committee that will implement the merger. As London-based head of global arbitrage, he will also be investing Travelers's money.

Mr Myojin's department lost $200 million last year on a small number of high-risk stock market bets. The resulting panic is said to have driven Salomon into Travelers's arms. Hisacceptance will alleviate fears that he might leave Salomon: he had wanted to retire in 1994 after getting a bonus of $20 million.

Institute reveals slowdown in service-sector activity

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE all-important service sector of the economy is slowing down after the four monthly interest rate increases since the general election.

The UK Purchasing Managers' monthly report on services published yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed the fourth consecutive slowdown in service-sector activity. It is now at its lowest since July 1996.

The survey is based on information from a panel of 500 private sector companies. They said that despite increased costs they had been unable to pass these on to customers. Prices charged by service companies fell for the first time since October 1996. The price falls were blamed on intensifying competition and resistance to higher prices by consumers.

Peter Thomson, director-general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said: "Growth in the service sector has slowed, but nevertheless remains very strong, as illustrated by the continued build-up of skill shortages and the substantial increases in pay that are having to be offered to attract staff.

"However, inflationary pressures from wages have been countered by falling prices charged for services. Consumers are still price-sensitive while competition is fierce."

Economics analysts at Nikko said: "It is unclear how much importance the Bank of England attaches to this survey, but it offers firm evidence that the four interest rate rises since the general election are beginning to have the desired effect. Based on this survey rates should be left on hold next week, and it argues for a continuation of the current policy stance for the remainder of the year."

Economists at HSBC said: "Coupled with Wednesday's firmer report on manufacturing there are clear signs that the gulf between the weak industrial sector and the rampant services sector has started to narrow."

They added: "Accordingly the report should ensure that interest rates remain on hold for at least another month, although the worries about wage pressures mean that the odds probably still favour a further modest tightening later in the year."

Vehicle recalls top 600,000

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

MORE than 630,000 vehicles have been recalled for safety checks this year because they were potentially dangerous.

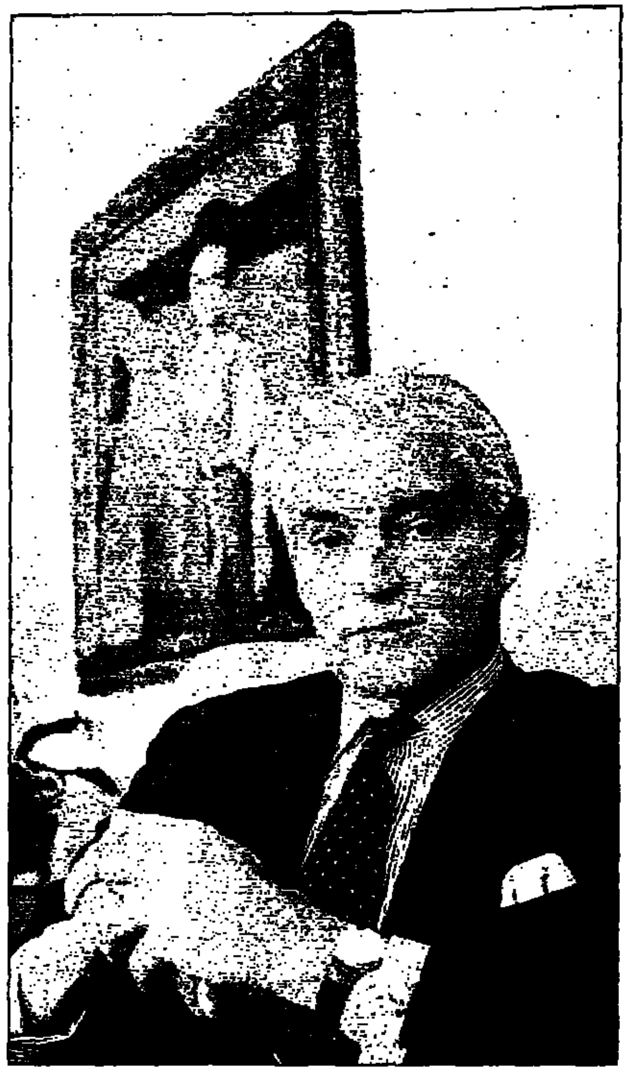
Figures from the Vehicle Inspectorate show that manufacturers have been forced to bring cars, motorcycles and lorries back to workshops for urgent checks because they had potentially serious faults.

There were 53 recall campaigns in the first half of this year alone — putting 1997 on target for a record number of vehicles targeted for emergency repairs. The highest number of recalls was in 1988 when there were 87 campaigns during the year.

Volkswagen registered the biggest recall, telling owners of 150,000 Golf hatchbacks and Vento saloons to bring their cars into workshops for checks to headlamp wiring identified as a fire risk.

Vauxhall also had to bring back more than 39,000 of its Vectra models — made in Luton, Bedfordshire — because there was a danger of the fuel pipes coming adrift from the filler cap.

Rolls-Royce recalled 12 of its £233,000 Bentley Continental T sports coupes because there were fears that the airbag might deploy unexpectedly.



Rudolph Agnew saw Redland shares plunge last week

Claims help Redland to recover

BY CHRIS AYRES

SHARES of Redland rallied yesterday amid reports that Rudolph Agnew, chairman, had told institutional investors that the beleaguered building materials group was vulnerable to a takeover bid.

Although Mr Agnew appeared to back down from his claim yesterday, the shares rose 20½p to 232½p. Last week Redland shares plunged, wiping £312 million off its market value, after the company reported a collapse in interim pre-tax profits from £95.5 million to £34.5 million.

Yesterday Mr Agnew said: "It's not that Redland is vulnerable. What is important is that we look at what is in the interests of shareholders. We shouldn't jump at the first offer that comes along. We hope for a speedy conclusion to the review. There are no personal or romantic issues involved here. Nothing will be sacred."

Meanwhile pressure has been growing on Robert Napier to stand down as chief executive. It is understood that a number of investors are working together to co-ordinate their campaign against Mr Napier.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tunstall managers consider buyout

SHARES of Tunstall rose 16p, to 107p, yesterday after its senior management said that it was considering making a bid for the manufacturer of electronics components and alarm systems. Michael Dawson, who owns 40 per cent of the shares, is leading the move to take the company private. The announcement was prompted by a rise in the share price earlier this week. However, the shares still trade at a sharp discount to the 1996 high of 380p. At yesterday's close the company was valued at £35.6 million. The move come after a tough 18 months for the group, which has been forced to issue three profit warnings. Yesterday the company said that negotiations were "at a very preliminary stage and it is by no means certain that a proposal will ensue".

In July, Tunstall, which is based in Yorkshire, said that pre-tax profits for the year to September 30 would be half the £8.2 million in the previous 12 months. The company, which has been adversely affected by the strength of sterling in a competitive market, has blamed pressure on local authority budgets, which has dented sales of its alarms for the elderly. Tunstall suffered a further setback when accounting problems were discovered at its Mion Electronics subsidiary, resulting in a £600,060 loss for the year. Mion is expected to return to profit in 1998.

Brewery shake-up

A MANAGEMENT shake-up at Marston, Thompson & Evershed has left Tony Marten, board director since 1992 with responsibility for John Marston's Taverners, without a job and he has left. Marston unveiled a new management structure yesterday consisting of retail, corporate services and brewing and trading. David Gordon, group managing director, is assuming responsibility for all Marston's pub retailing businesses, while Nick Letchet, finance director since July, adds corporate services to his responsibilities.

Burford sells site

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the property company, is selling the 148-acre Heywood Distribution Park in Manchester to the BP Pension Fund for £75 million, reflecting an initial yield of 7.75 per cent. Burford acquired Heywood from Ascot Holdings for £24 million in 1994 and has spent a further £27 million on improvements. Tenants include Argos, JD Sports and Churchill Insurance. Rental income has risen from £2.4 million to £6.06 million. Burford shares rose 5½p to 114½p.

Russell issues warning

ALEXANDER RUSSELL, the mining and concrete group, said profits were likely to be £350,000 lower than forecast because of unauthorised rebates made to customers in its concrete division. The subsidiary board member concerned has been dismissed without compensation. Graeme Nicolson, managing director, said an investigation was continuing, and that some stock was still unaccounted for. He said the rest of the company's businesses were performing in line with expectations. Police have not yet been notified.

Castrol sells division

BURMAH CASTROL has sold its car care products business, Simoniz, to the Holt Lloyd Group for about £7 million cash. Burmah Castrol will show an exceptional loss of about £4 million arising from this transaction as a result of the write-back of the goodwill written off at the time of the acquisition of Simoniz in 1987. Based at Newquay, Cornwall, Simoniz manufactures a wide range of car shampoos, polishes and maintenance products. In 1996 it had a turnover of £14 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.31	2.13
Austria Sch	21.01	19.35
Belgium Fr	61.82	56.96
Canada $	2.331	2.143
Cyprus Cyp£	0.884	0.813
Denmark Kr	11.41	10.52
Finland Mkk	9.07	8.32
France Fr	10.02	9.24
Germany Dm	3.01	2.76
Greece Dr	475	436
Hong Kong $	13.28	12.08
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.16	1.08
Israel Shk	5.95	5.30
Italy Lira	2963	2728
Japan Yen	211.43	193.90
Malta	0.663	0.604
Netherlds Gld	3.393	3.098
New Zealand $	2.66	2.42
Norway Kr	11.97	11.03
Portugal Esc	302.03	280.00
S Africa Rd	8.22	7.26
Spain Pta	251.29	232.50
Sweden Kr	12.98	11.88
Switzerland Fr	2.49	2.28
Turkey Lira	290358	270480
USA $	1.713	1.570

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Only six weeks ago Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, were patting themselves on the back for pulling off what looked like remarkable coup over the MCI deal. But now, the tables have dramatically turned . . ."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

هكذا من الأصل

Invest in the style counsel

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Bill Harrison believed that he could build a British-based investment bank. Installed as chief executive of BZW only a year ago, he started wielding the cheque book with alacrity and fuelled a fearsome bidding war for City talent. Martin Taylor, something of a puritan by nature, was deeply uncomfortable with such largesse. As expensive golden handcuffs were proffered in his name, he could be heard debating the dangers of encouraging greed in this way.

But that was the game he entered when he opted to give BZW a chance of success and put it in the hardened hands of Mr Harrison. Barclays may have paid headhunters heavily for tracking down the former Flemings man, but Birmingham-born Mr Harrison had not been secreting his light under a bushel. His reputation was out there in the marketplace, and his attitudes and techniques should have come as no surprise to Mr Taylor.

Mr Harrison was playing hardball against the American giants of investment banking with the intention of being seen as a serious competitor. He has reason to feel aggrieved at the decision by Barclays to pull out of the match at this stage, although his pain will be cushioned by a payment large enough to make Mr Taylor blench yet more.

Despite the embarrassment of having to reverse his assurances that he would give BZW time to prove itself, Mr Taylor and his board have probably made the right decision for Barclays shareholders. The trend towards mega-banks has started hurtling towards an eventual handful of players. After seeing Warburg splash out on Dillon Read and Travelers do Warren Buffet a favour by buying Salomon, the choice for Barclays was crystallised. Either Mr Harrison's chequebook was replenished with the contents of the banks vaults so that he might go in search of a US house, or its involvement in investment banking was over. Customers of investment banks are making it clear that, if they want them at all, they want them big and global.

After the agonising, Mr Taylor must have felt relief that he could revert to banking of the sort so profitably pursued by Sir Brian Pitman at Lloyds, where punts on derivatives do not risk plunging the institution into a black hole at any moment and remuneration packages do not soar skywards.

Mr Taylor was surely correct to be concerned that BZW staff should be benefiting so much more from the assets being put at their disposal than the shareholders who actually own them.

His decision means that Britain is now devoid of any contender for a place in the final line-up of global investment banks, the ranks of which will be dominated by the US houses with a few Europeans jostling for inclusion. That is not necessarily a tragedy. As Schroders and Lazards so ably demonstrate, there is another route on which style counts for as much as size.

Bridgeman at the City gates again

Britain's competition authorities once had a huge success attacking and reforming the old Stock Exchange cartel. Their intervention finally broke resistance to change and permitted the Big Bang of 1986. Since then, the Office of Fair Trading seems to have lost its touch. It is apparently now inclined to interfere when, if problems exist, they lie between rival factions rather than in service to companies and investors.

Barring a last-minute change of heart, John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading is about to wheel up the big guns of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to pontificate on the non-issue of stock underwriting.

The OFT has decided that a cartel of institutional funds and securities houses is conspiring to charge companies more than necessary to raise new capital. They collectively insist on pre-emption rights for shareholders, largely themselves, then demand underwriting fees on often profitable tariffs to make sure new shares are taken up.

The OFT urges more competition: rights issues should be priced at deep discounts to market value to make underwriting otiose; or sub-underwriting should be put out to tender leading to falling rates; or investment banks should build books of bids before fixing the price. In July Mr Bridgeman gave underwriters a final warning, but little seems to have changed, if only because the market has dried up.

Yet there is nothing to stop companies choosing different ways of raising money or insisting on these changes if they want them. If market forces do not bring change, it may be because there is no point in it.

In reality, Mr Bridgeman is again trying to break down London practice in favour of the ways favoured by powerful American houses. Constant pressure on the market-making system for trading big companies' shares finally persuaded the Stock Exchange to give it up later this month in favour of American ways, to the convenience of international houses but to no obvious benefit for investors. Now the rights issue is to be killed, since the OFT formula of deep discounts, with its overtones of desperation, is anathema to investors and finance directors alike. Inevitably, rights will be axed in favour of the book-based placing system used in America. Small investors would yet again be left out in the cold. It is investors' rights, not global investment banks, that need a champion. They will not find one at the OFT or the MMC.

Deceived by the spin

Spin doctoring is not a victimless crime. Various press officers and special advisers — and yesterday new Labour's Minister without Portfolio — have spun themselves out of control. The financial markets have now got it in their collective heads that Britain may well join the single currency in the first wave. The economic and political facts are that this is extremely unlikely. So a wholly unrealistic expectation has been created, deliberately or through a dangerous naivety about how the markets think.

The upshot may be quite damaging. The fall in long-term borrowing costs and the surge in asset prices that has taken place over the past week arguably make the Bank of England more likely to want a rise in short-term interest rates. Just when there are signs that the consumer economy is beginning to lose some of its heat — as the purchasing managers' report on services showed yesterday — EMU perceptions are pumping up gilt and share prices. This is a boost to the national wealth, which the Bank must not particularly welcome when it wants to take heat out of the economy.

The monetary policy committee meets again next week and a base rate rise is not thought to be on the cards. But the run-up in asset prices must give Bank officials pause for thought. To put it in crude terms, the spin doctors may have ensured that the cost of mortgages will end up higher than would have been the case without their political posturing and loose talk.

Dropping bricks

THE elegant Rudolph Agnew found a fittingly elegant way to bolster the shares of Redland this week. Letting slip that the state of the building materials company was so dire that it was increasingly vulnerable to a bid instantly increased the price that any bidder might have to pay. Dispensing with the services of the chief executive who has helped to reduce the company to such a state might bump up the price even more.

Two Way TV delays national launch

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

TWO WAY TV, the interactive television company that allows viewers to take part in quizzes such as *A Question of Sport*, is to delay its national launch for a year to await the arrival of digital technology.

The company has been working since 1994, developing the technology to allow viewers to play along with television programmes and win prizes using hand-held infra-red devices and a "blackbox" with a simple modem connected to the telephone network.

About £40 million has been invested in Two Way TV, and the backers include Ladbroke, which is interested in the interactive meeting potential of such a system.

Earlier this year Two Way TV launched a commercial trial in the Midlands, and more than 3,000 subscribers are paying £9.95 for the service. The company had hoped to launch nationally by Christmas.

Bill Andrewes, chairman of Two Way TV and a former chief executive of Granada Rental, said yesterday the demand for the service, which also provides extra on-screen information for sporting events, had been demonstrated.

The families in the commercial trial, who did not have to pay for the receiving equipment, used the Two Way TV system for about ten hours a week and the ratings of the television programmes involved soared withing the group of users.

The extra information on the programmes is broadcast alongside the television signal like teletext.

But Mr Andrewes admitted that the trial had also demonstrated people were reluctant to pay about £100 for the receiving equipment. The alternative, raising an additional £100 million to give away the equipment to viewers on a large scale, was not judged practical.

Instead, Mr Andrewes has opened discussions with the companies planning to launch digital television systems, terrestrial as well as satellite, next year.

Parts shortage halts Boeing production of jets for 20 days

From a correspondent in Seattle

BOEING is to stop production of its jumbo jets for 20 days because of a shortage of parts.

The company, the world's biggest commercial jet manufacturer, is also scaling back production of the latest versions of its 737 jets, installing parts as they become available.

Boeing has struggled to keep up with a huge rise in orders for commercial aircraft but had hoped to be able to keep the 747 production line moving. Last month it was forced to delay delivery of a dozen planes to ten airlines from September to the fourth quarter of the year.

Bob Dryden, executive vice-president for aircraft production, said: "The most effective recovery measure for the 747 is to immediately stop the production line for 20 manufacturing days. This will allow us to complete those jobs that have fallen behind schedule."

The embarrassing delay will be welcomed by Airbus, the European consortium that is Boeing's main rival and the shareholders of which include British Aerospace.

Phil Condit, chairman and chief executive of Boeing, had hoped production schedules could be maintained despite the parts shortage because of the adverse impact on customers that await delivery of aircraft. Yesterday Ron Woodard, head of Boeing's commercial airplane business, admitted: "We're working closely with our customers and realise that any delays in delivery are very serious and impacts their bottom line."

Boeing has seen a dramatic increase in orders since 1995, and production logjams have resulted for reasons ranging from parts shortages to lack of skilled workers. Overall, Boeing produced 18 jetliners a month last year, was rolling out 36 a month as of mid-September, and plans to produce a record 48 a month by the second quarter of next year, counting jetliner production at newly acquired McDonnell Douglas.

The company said recently it had no plans to hire outside temporary workers, but was considering bringing in workers from other Boeing divisions in California and Kansas. This summer, Boeing shifted hundreds of workers from its 767 production line to the 747 to help to get production back on track.

Yesterday Boeing also confirmed that certification of its next-generation 737-100 has been delayed by vibration found in the horizontal stabiliser during flight tests. Design changes have been made, but their implementation and installation has been hampered by the parts shortage. As a result no next-generation 737 aircraft will enter final assembly for the next 25 days.

Condit: adverse impact

GILL ALLEN

Andrew Taylor, newly appointed chief executive of McDonald's in the UK, gets into the rhythm at the fast food group's outlet in Leicester Square, London, yesterday. Mr Taylor, who started as a trainee restaurant manager at McDonald's in Wembley, joined staff around the world in celebrating Founder's Day, established 13 years ago in honour of Ray Kroc, who founded McDonald's in 1954. Mr Taylor said: "It helps to keep everyone in touch with the real business of McDonald's — making food and serving customers."

Ladbroke sells Plaza for £43m

By Dominic Walsh

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group, is poised to reap more than £40 million from the sale of the Plaza on Hyde Park hotel in London to a Far Eastern buyer.

The 402-bedroom Plaza, one of eight Ladbroke hotels for sale with a combined price tag of nearly £100 million, is expected to be sold to Malayan United Industries (MUI), a Malaysian conglomerate listed on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange. The sale price is thought to be around £43 million.

MUI, whose interests span property, construction, financial services and retailing, owns the Vista International chain, which operates nine hotels in Malaysia and Australia under the Vista and MingCourt brands. It also has a presence in America.

According to industry sources, MUI has been granted a period of exclusivity in which to negotiate a deal. That period is thought to expire at the end of next week. Neither Ladbroke nor MUI would comment.

The three-star Plaza is part of a package of hotels put up for sale earlier this year by Ladbroke. They are largely unbranded three-star hotels that do not fit the group's domestic four-star Hilton National brand and its upmarket Hilton International business.

Biotech shares hit by drug setback

By Paul Durman

SHARES in British Biotech lost another £100 million of their stock market value yesterday when the drug developer reported side-effect problems with a potential arthritis drug that it had licensed to Glaxo Wellcome.

Glaxo Wellcome has abandoned work on BB-2983 because of problems that arose in animal tests to investigate the effect of long-term use of the drug. Neither Glaxo Wellcome nor British Biotech would disclose the nature of the side-effects.

British Biotech's shares fell $15\frac{1}{2}$p, to a new low this year of 134p. The shares, which traded above 300p last year, are now lower than at any time since November 1995 when the company published promising data on marimastat, the cancer drug.

The company insisted that the problems with BB-2983 did not reduce the likelihood of marimastat's success. Both compounds are based on inhibiting enzymes called matrix metalloproteinases. Although marimastat causes some cancer sufferers neck and shoulder pain, it cleared the toxicity trials that were BB-2983's downfall.

Glaxo Wellcome has paid British Biotech £11 million in upfront and milestone payments for BB-2983, and began phase 1 safety trials of the drug on humans last November. The drug, a potential treatment for bowel disease, was British Biotech's fourth most advanced project.

Although analysts had not placed enormous value on BB-2983, the large share price fall reflects the jittery biotech sector, which has suffered numerous setbacks this year.

Tempus, page 31

Mobiles to have portable numbers

By Our Media Editor

MOBILE telephone users should be able to keep their numbers when they change telephone operator from the end of next year.

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunications, the telephone regulator, has told the UK's four mobile operators — Cellnet, Vodafone, Orange and One 2 One — that he would like them to agree to "number portability" by October 17 next year. The requirement would then become part of their licences by January 1, 1999.

Mr Cruickshank believes the fact that mobile users cannot keep their numbers when they move is acting as a block to competition in the sector. "Mobile phone users want to choose the best deal around. Many decide not to switch simply because, at the moment, moving to a new operator means changing your number," says Mr Cruickshank, who is pressing ahead with outstanding issues before leaving Oftel in April.

The Director-General says that achieving number portability is one of his top priorities.

Last year Mr Cruickshank pushed through number portability for consumers leaving BT to take up a cable telephone service.

The deadline of the end of next year is a few months later than originally planned for the introduction of mobile number portability, but should give the industry, Oftel believes, "the time it needs to introduce the changes efficiently".

Oftel has to get the consent of the mobile operators, but because competition issues are involved Oftel could seek the involvement of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if the operators refused.

Bass loses round in Czech beer stakes

By Dominic Walsh

Prosser: still fighting

HARD on the heels of seeing Carlsberg-Tetley snatched from his grasp by Margaret Beckett, Sir Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, has received a setback to his dream of becoming the dominant brewer in the Czech Republic.

Challenging his ambitions is Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, which appears to be rapidly acquiring a taste for the European beer market. Only last week, it unveiled a £1.2 billion bid for Inntrepreneur and Spring Inns, making it the UK's biggest pub landlord.

Bass entered the Czech market about four years ago by taking a stake in Prague Breweries, and a couple of years later swallowed two smaller breweries. These have become Prague Breweries, in which Bass emerged with a 55 per cent stake. Bass then set about building a 33 per cent stake in Radegast, the number two player. The gameplan was eventually to put Prague and Radegast together.

But yesterday, IMP Finance — a Dutch trust set up by Nomura — mopped up 35 per cent of Radegast and said it wants to buy up those shares not held by Bass. Meanwhile, Nomura wants to buy the Czech Government's one-third holding in IPB, the country's second largest bank and a major shareholder in Pilsner Urquell, the biggest brewer.

Randall Dillard, managing director of Nomura International, said last night that an application would be made to the Czech competition authorities for permission to merge Pilsner with Radegast — a move that would give it around 42 per cent of the beer market.

Bass, which is said to have invested almost £100 million, is not sitting on its hands. It has asked the Czech equivalent of the Office of Fair Trade to block Nomura's merger plans, and is suing Radegast and Pilsner shareholders for secretly acting in concert with Nomura and breaking competition laws.

A spokesman said defiantly: "Bass will maintain its position in the Czech Republic and will continue to seek opportunities to grow both organically and by acquisition as opportunities arise."

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هكذا من الإصل

Canny Scott makes pitch and pulls it off to a tee

Charlie Scott is the sort of canny Scot who will turn off all the lights if he is last out of the office. He is also such a sharp punter that he took out a spread bet five minutes to ten on election night, closely predicting the number of seats. By five minutes past, when the first exit polls came through, he had won a couple of thousand pounds.

Both traits show why Scott has devised the incentive scheme that attracted headlines last week. It could turn 140 ad men into millionaires and is pivotal to Scott's plans for dividing Cordiant into two quoted companies — Saatchi & Saatchi and Cordiant Communications, in reality the old Ted Bates ad agency. Scott will chair both companies for another year.

First, he is mean. Scott's scheme demands that players put their own cash into the business, and they only collect if they deliver the goods. He cannot abide waste, but you also get the sense of revenge for earlier, profligate times under the Saatchi brothers. He wants to impose a little pain and introduce a new culture.

Secondly, he is a betting man and is taking the long view that by giving such carrots and imposing tough targets he will get the "rainmakers" making sure that the business is where it should be. The double-figure earnings targets are not that tough for the industry, he admits, even though the debt levels are high. "The culture has still got to change. People must go the extra mile. I only wish that the scheme could have been extended to more staff," he said.

There is also a neat irony to the deal, which may be Scott's way of getting even with the brothers whose legacy he is still unravelling. It is the logical conclusion to one of the most illogical takeovers undertaken by the Saatchis in the 1980s. It was the Bates bid which sealed their fate.

For Scott and long-suffering shareholders, the demerger is the final act of a long, nightmarish saga that started when he was drawn in to save the business by the charismatic playboy, Robert Louis Dreyfus.

Scott says now that if he had known what it was going to be like he would never have joined. He is diplomatic about the brothers, but it is no secret that he strongly disapproved of their high-spending style and high-minded attitude to company money. Maurice in turn thought he was a boring old "suit".

IN THE HOT SEAT

CHARLIE SCOTT CV

Born 1949
1962: Dover College
1967: Articled, Binder Hamlyn
1978: Finance director, IMS
1990: Finance director, Saatchi & Saatchi
1995: Chairman, Cordiant Group

Even the thick-skinned Scott agrees that he is a suit — but a straight suit who finds numbers easier than words and is often ponderous in his articulation. He says he is not a quitter and had to stick with the company even though it was clearly falling apart. "I will never forget the first meeting with the banks. I actually thought we were breaking the law as directors and were about to call in the receivers.

"Our first meeting was in a dark gloomy City room. I opened my briefcase and a golf tee came rolling out. It changed the atmosphere. The banks agreed to lend us $10 million for two weeks and that kept us going," he says. With Dreyfus, they managed to put together a successful financial reconstruction, gave the agency much-needed stability and started to win new clients — although Scott regrets he did not spend more time personally trying to keep the high-profile Mars account.

Today the Saatchi and Saatchi network is ranked eleventh in the world, its half-year pre-tax profit is up to £20 million. His achievements have been considerable. The imminent split is intended to provide extra vigour.

Even industry observers have grudging respect for what a non-ad man has done in a business not known for its honour, though most agree he is hard to fathom.

Highrolling is not important to him, but one suspects it is money and now his young family which drive him. He has an almost perverse determination not to be seduced by the good life, even though he has been so close to the rich tables of people like Dreyfus and the Saatchis. He had a simple, but peripatetic childhood.

Now he likes his playtime and his days spent on the golf course are legendary. He is crazy about football and would have liked to have made it his career. He was never good enough to be a professional, even though he was taught PE by Jeffrey Archer at Dover College. He came close to buying a share of Nottingham Forest with a consortium.

What will Scott do next? He is close to Dreyfus, sitting on the board of Adidas with him, and recently he joined the headhunters Robert Walters as a non-executive. He is likely to go for more non-executive jobs rather than another big mucky one. He did say that, while he may be the last to leave the office, he is also the last to arrive in the mornings.

MARGARETA PAGANO

Charlie Scott wants people to go the extra mile

Why now? The question left hanging over the BZW sale

Adam Jones looks at the reasoning behind Barclays' disclosure that it is selling its investment arm

The revolving doors that front BZW's marbled offices in Canary Wharf had become something of a symbol for life in the investment bank.

As executives, traders and analysts spun out one way, fed up with rumours of Barclays selling or merging the business, dozens of ambitious replacements were happy to take the enormous bait offered by Bill Harrison, BZW's big-spending boss.

At 7.15am yesterday the doors were spinning like a turbine engine as staff rushed in early to learn their fate at a mass meeting convened by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank.

Few had any illusions about what they were going to hear after relentless market speculation on Thursday. Most clutched a newspaper in which the rumours had already been crystallised into a plan to split the bank and sell the equities and corporate finance operations. When the meeting broke up shortly before 8am, the newspaper reports having been confirmed, one question remained largely unanswered. Why now?

BZW was formed in the run-up to Big Bang in the mid-1980s and survived a restructuring in 1991 to become the last UK-owned investment bank with real international clout.

Last summer, Martin Taylor hired Bill Harrison, the former head of global investment banking at Robert Fleming. His Birmingham roots and hard-driving dynamism saddled Mr Harrison with the nickname "Attila the Brum", continuing the City's rich tradition of exoticising anyone from outside the Home Counties. Mr Harrison's pay package — a signing-on bonus of £1.5 million, plus a guaranteed minimum bonus of £1.25 million and a £300,000 salary — — quickly ensured controversy.

Some observers felt that the retail bank's more sober ethos sat uneasily with the mega-salaries won by Mr Harrison and his new recruits, not to mention the glitzy offices on two sites at Canary Wharf, which accounted for £120 million of capital expenditure in last year's accounts, with more to come in this year's results.

An objection at the annual meeting earlier this year was typical. An accountholder of more than 50 years standing denounced what she scornfully saw as a "gravy-train bonus bonanza" that rewarded executives before they had even proved themselves.

Analysts worried that BZW under Harrison was being forced to throw money at staff in a bid to build a big enough presence in an increasingly globalised market place, very late in the game.

The volatility of BZW's earnings was another concern, with the return on capital dragging down Barclays' slick high-street operation. Pre-tax profits slumped by 29 per cent last year to £204 million, although there was an improvement in the first half of the current year.

In the uncertainty, BZW lost key staff. Patrick O'Sullivan, chief operating officer, defected to Eagle Star in July. In the last month alone the respected food analyst, David McCarthy, has left, hot on the heels of two telecoms analysts.

Amid repeated rumours about bid approaches from the likes of Commerzbank of Germany, it was rumoured in May that Barclays would give the investment bank 18 to 24 months to prove itself. As recently as August's interim figures, where a pre-tax profit of £124 million was recorded, up from £42 million in 1996, he said that the business was "recovering nicely".

There have been a number of explanations for the sudden climbdown. Mr Taylor says the bank's energies under Mr Harrison had first been devoted to building up the markets operation, which includes central treasury and foreign exchange facilities used by the retail bank.

When the top brass got around to devoting their energies to equities and corporate finance in the summer, it became clear, he said, that the cost of building BZW into a truly competitive global player, possibly via acquisition, was too much.

So why not a quiet trade sale? Mr Taylor says the difficulty of resolving which back office functions should be kept and which sold made it impossible to sell discreetly since it would have involved going over the investment bank with a toothcomb and news would have leaked. Announcing sale plans before a buyer has emerged — he maintained that there have been no talks — is the fairest option. He says it would have been dishonest to hire staff when the business was earmarked for disposal. Buyers also know they are getting a committed workforce.

This may be in keeping with Mr Taylor's New Labour credentials. But some analysts believe this will lead to an exodus that will erode the businesses' sale value, put at £400 to £500 million.

One unofficial explanation for the sudden U-turn is that the performance of the market-making activities had slumped since the Budget, when tax breaks on dividends were withdrawn. BZW admitted to a £20 million hit from anticipated tax changes in first-half results and had given warning of a "further small loss" in the second half.

One insider suggested the position was worse than this and that this was the final straw: "Martin Taylor just lost his patience." Barclays denies this and says the second-half charge will be smaller.

Others point to the tie-up between Travelers Corporation and Salomon Brothers as a hastening factor, emphasising how the future of investment banking is going to be dominated by the "bulge bracket" US players, whose huge domestic operations can fund overseas expansion.

Both Mr Taylor and Mr Harrison went to great lengths yesterday to emphasise how purely European investment banks are the poor relations of their American cousins, unless they are niche players.

Although this lends weight to the assertion that BZW could not thrive in its current state, it places both Barclays and Mr Harrison in a rather awkward position.

The rumoured willingness of European investment banks to snap up BZW — the names include ING of Holland, Commerzbank and Banque Bruxelles Lambert of Belgium — suggests that at least someone there believes the Continent can produce a world-leading investment bank, even if the Brits have given up.

And Mr Harrison, who is likely to receive one of the largest payoffs for an executive of a UK public company, will look rather silly if he ends up anywhere other than the fattest of the American bulge-bracket banks.

For the moment, he says he will assist in preparing the nominated BZW divisions for sale. Not being one for taking holidays, the only outlet for his new-found freedom will be a trip to a Bob Dylan concert this weekend. Quite where the freewheelin' Mr Harrison's next gig will be is anyone's guess, but the six-figure payout he is likely to receive will not keep him off the comeback trail for long.

BZW's Bill Harrison, nicknamed "Attila the Brum", is likely to get a six-figure payoff as a result of the Barclays' sale

Bank on irony

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

STUDENTS of irony might note that Barclays Bank finally decided to pull the plug on BZW because of the cost of changes in the Budget on ACT that hurt the market-makers in the summer. So Blair and Brown invited Martin Taylor to take time off from the bank to advise on planned reforms of the welfare state. Their first Budget then scuppered any hopes he might have had of keeping BZW going. A lesser man than Taylor might have felt "messed around".

The headhunters tell me that Bill Harrison, aka Attila the Brum, will have no problems finding himself a fresh post in the City. I am sure there will be a warm welcome everywhere for the man whose first act on arriving at BZW was to knife Donald Brydon in the back. As to that expected mass exodus from BZW, well, the phones of at least one big City headhunter were not exactly ringing off the hook yesterday. If you have already accepted the move down river to Canary Wharf, you might as well wait a couple of months more. And perhaps even pick up your 1997 bonus.

● *A GREAT improvement on grim weekends at country hotels spent trying not to shoot the managing director with a paintball. The entire corporate finance team at Close Brothers, all 60 of them, are spending the weekend in Iceland. Halfway to Greenland, and for some reason incredibly fashionable at present, although no one seems to know why. They are in for a weekend of team problem-solving, alas, and what is referred to as "the real fun". Glacier walking, ice climbing, white water rafting. Heaven forbid.*

Fool's gold

THE Motley Fool, a sort of cybernetic investment club originating in the US, has arrived in Britain. This is "an online investment site designed to take the mystique out of share dealing and empower private investors". It is, as suits our computer games age, I suppose, bright, snappy and superficial: "It's here, it's stunning, it's earth-shattering." It lambasts "conventional Wisdom" as typified by all those dull City fund managers. (They are known as the Wise; our online investors are the Fools).

Instead, why not invest in an index-tracking unit trust? How do you beat the performance of the FTSE 30-share index? Simple, you punt on the five shares with the highest yield. If only it were that easy. There does seem to be a genuine attempt to demystify. But a Fool and his money . . .

● *A GRINNING chap with sticking-out ears who looks vaguely familiar is waving a beer glass at me alongside Bernie Ray, managing director of on-trade sales at Carlsberg-Tetley. "New Labour, New Carlsberg-Tetley," it says. Tony Blair was at a function hosted by the brewer during the party conference. The event "comes hard on the heels of Carlsberg-Tetley's announcement last week regarding its restructuring", the company burbles. And 1,500 job losses, which some unions blamed on Blair's administration and its refusal to allow a merger with Bass. As did Carlsberg-Tetley, come to that, though they are clearly a forgiving bunch.*

Poor form

ON OCTOBER 30, according to the catalogue, Phillips will auction some unusual pieces of Doulton Lambethware — take it from me, it's special — once at the Birbeck Bank in Chancery Lane. The money will go to charity. Three gryphons with cupids on them, some female forms, you know the kind of thing. From the days when banks looked like banks rather than builders' Portakabins. The Birbeck was bought by a predecessor of the NatWest early this century. The statues were unearthed when a nearby building was bought recently by a property developer, the Marchday Group.

Except that the sale will not now take place, for reasons everyone is a bit vague on. I cannot quite imagine who might need a six-foot by three china gryphon, with or without cupid astride, let alone three of them. The lack of any such pressing need may or may not have been what scuppered the original auction.

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هكذا من الإمل

STOCK MARKET

[illegible] CLARK

Investors look to Nestlé to digest United Biscuits

CITY speculators are pinning their hopes on Nestlé, the Swiss food group, bidding for **United Biscuits** of McVitie's and KP Nuts fame.

In a week where corporate activity showed signs of picking up speed, UB stood out with a rise of 7p to 211½p, having hovered just above its low of 196p for some time. There was even some useful turnover to back up the story. By the close a healthy 1.82 million shares had been traded, including 100,000 at 212p and 150,000 at 214p.

Brokers are reluctant to comment — they have heard this one before. Admittedly, UB looks vulnerable. The shares have declined steadily since hitting a peak of 440p back in 1992. However, UB continues to boast a strong portfolio of international brand names and the current price tag is just over £1 billion.

Share prices generally recovered from an early markdown to climb back above the 5,300 level. A positive start on Wall Street in the wake of weak non-farm payroll numbers cheered sentiment.

The FTSE 100 index rallied from a 22-point fall to finish 34.7 up at 5,330.8, a rise on the week of 104.5, or almost 2 per cent. Turnover yesterday, however, was on the low side with a total of 819 million shares changing hands.

The banking sector has continued to hold centre stage this week in the Square Mile. But this time it has been for different reasons. Confirmation that **Barclays Bank** is to split up BZW, the City's largest securities house, and sell off the bits it does not want was greeted with cynicism in some quarters. The shares, having hit an all-time high of £18.04 on Thursday, on intense speculation that the bid was imminent, tumbled 49½p to £16.97½ yesterday when it emerged that no buyers had actually been attracted.

The focus of attention may now swing to **NatWest Bank**, up 12p at 998p. NatWest has its own investment banking arm up for sale. In the summer, the group was forced to admit that it had discovered a £90 million "black hole" in its accounts after a series of transactions conducted in the futures market.

Northern Rock, new to the market this week, came up trumps for its members on Wednesday, with the shares opening much higher than even the most optimistic brokers had forecast. The average auction price was 452p compared with 435p on the grey market the night before. This was way above the fundamental value of 360p to 385p put on the shares by most brokers. The shares ended yesterday 2½p lighter at 473½p.

Standard Chartered, up 14½p at 851p, ended lower on the week after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, downgraded its recommendation from "add" to "hold" and urged clients to switch into **HSBC**, up 43½p at £22.46.

Unilever recovered from an early fall to close 5p better at £18.74½, having briefly touched £18.47½. The company has failed to impress brokers at briefings.

British Telecom advanced a further 10p to 469½ after the shock news on Wednesday that WorldCom had topped its offer for MCI by £5 billion. BT must decide whether it wants to indulge in a bid battle, or rethink its international strategy.

Redland, brick manufacturers and quarry merchants, up 21½p at 254p, has put itself in play. Rudolph Agnew, chairman, has told institutional shareholders that the company might be vulnerable to a takeover.

The worst-performing stock among the top 250 shares was **British Biotech**, down 15½p (10.3 per cent) at 134p after dumping one of its drugs which had developed side-effects.

Earlier in the week, shares of **Stanford Rook** plunged almost 400p after it was revealed that its treatment for tuberculosis had disappointed. The shares finished 5p down at 167½p yesterday. Other companies to suffer development setbacks this year have included **Biocompatibles**, down 15p at 570p, and **Celltech**, 2½p lighter at 332½p.

Verity continues to go from strength to strength, with the price jumping 15p to a new high of 72¾p after signing four new licensing agreements for its NXT flat-panel loudspeaker technology.

A profits warning left **Alexander Russell** nursing a fall of 6p at 97½p.

Greenway, the waste control specialist, continues to languish just above its low for the year. The price closed all-square at 35p with talk of a bullish circular on the company about to be published.

Expro International stood out with a jump of 25p at 570p, with a number of delayed trades going through on the City ticker late in the day. They included a buyer of 250,000 shares at 568p and a further 90,000 at 570p. Yesterday the group took a party of brokers on a trip to see its operations in Holland.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Bond prices in London ended the week on a high note, with gains stretching to more than £1½ at the longer end.

Further hints that Britain might become part of the first wave of countries joining a single currency worked investors up into a lather after a dull start.

There was a further boost to market sentiment from US Treasury bonds, which responded positively to a subdued set of US employment numbers and average earnings.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt put on £1$\frac{5}{32}$ to close at a new all-time high of £121$\frac{5}{8}$ as a total of 156,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent leapt £1$\frac{11}{16}$ to £118$\frac{15}{32}$, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks better at £103$\frac{7}{8}$. The Bank of England has confirmed that trading will begin on the new gilt strips market on December 8.

☐ **NEW YORK**: The Dow Jones industrial average lost most of its early gains after an explosive rally sparked by good news on the economy. The rally saw the broad market and smaller stock indices all streak to new highs. By midday, the Dow was ahead 63.85 at 8,091.38.

British Biotech dropped a drug and its shares fell 15½p

Tesco wants to link up with a well-known high street retailer in order to boost sales of branded clothing in its stores. The City was excited by reports that a deal with Next is imminent. The shares responded with a rise of 6p to 457½p, but sources say Next is not the suitor.

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	Current price	Week's change	
Barclays Bank	£16.97½	+33p	BZW up for sale
Stanford Rook	187½p	-384p	Drug failure
British Biotech	134p	-27½p	Drug development halted
Oasis Stores	225p	-39½p	Profits setback
Standard Chartered	851p	-30p	Broker's downgrading
Acatos & Hutcheson	276p	-20½p	Profits warning
British Telecom	469½p	+52p	Counterbid for MCI
Dixons	677p	+39½p	OFT shelves inquiry
Verity Group	72¾p	+18p	Four new licensing deals

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	8091.38 (+63.85)
S&P Composite	971.26 (+10.52)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	17647.45 (+192.41)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	15128.02 (+78.72)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	963.32 (+23.06)

Sydney:

AO	2763.1 (-15.8)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4266.17 (-7.54)

Singapore:

Straits	1902.04 (-25.58)

Brussels:

General	14096.50 (+176.13)

Paris:

CAC-40	3094.01 (+41.94)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1245.40 (+18.80)

London:

FT 30	3407.3 (+27.7)
FTSE 100	5330.8 (+34.7)
FTSE 250	4883.9 (+22.6)
FTSE 350	2555.3 (+15.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2761.96 (-0.04)
FTSE All-Share	2492.41 (+15.12)
FTSE Non Financials	2490.47 (+17.71)
FTSE Fixed Interest	132.90 (+1.32)
FTSE Govt Secs	101.83 (+0.85)
Bargains	56328
SEAQ Volume	819.8m
US$	1.6117 (-0.0044)
German Mark	2.8406 (-0.0141)
Exchange Index	100.1 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4472
£:SDR	1.1834
RPI	158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aggreko	179	+ ½
Computerland UK	146	...
I S Solutions	142½	+ 6
Latchways (155)	174½	...
Northern Rock	473½	- 2½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Gearhouse n/p (250)	121½	...
John Lusty n/p (5)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Verity	72¾p (+15p)
Diploma	292½p (+47½p)
Tunstall	107p (+16p)
Chemring	154p (+14½p)
Redland	254p (+21½p)
Kingsbury Grp	173p (+13p)
Hepworth	226p (+16p)
Trinity Hldgs	328½p (+21p)
Blacks Leis	420½p (+23p)
LASMO	285p (+15p)
Broxton	229½p (+11p)
Br Land	694p (+29p)
Holders Tech	172p (+7p)
Ryl Bk Scot	697½p (+25p)
Bradford	308½p (+11p)
JJB Sports	483½p (+17p)
Vaux Group	261½p (+8p)
Mang Bronze	573½p (+16p)
Electrocompnts	489p (+13½p)
Smithkline	616½p (+15½p)
Meyer Int	441p (+11½p)
Cardiff Prop	291½p (+8p)

FALLS:

Brit Biotech	134p (-15½p)
Russell (A)	97½p (-6p)
Schrod Korea	395½p (-14½p)
Danka Bs Sys	685p (-22½p)
Biocomps Intl	570p (-15p)
Eurotherm	401p (-10½p)
FS Cons	372¼p (-8¼p)
Legal & Gen	496½p (-8½p)
Safeway	376p (-6p)
Br Airways	662½p (-9p)
Granada	867p (-8p)
McKechnie	496½p (-6p)
Utd Utilities	769½p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Going for a burger

TOMKINS has been enjoying a remarkable revival over the past three months. Since the preliminary results in early July, when Greg Hutchings gritted his teeth and agreed to hand back cash to shareholders, the group's shares have risen 30 per cent, finally piercing the 300p glass ceiling.

Mr Hutchings' manufacturing conglomerate has been out of favour ever since its purchase of Ranks Hovis McDougall, despite continuing to grow its profits, dividends and earnings per share. Even after the recent run, the shares have underperformed by more than 30 per cent over the past five years.

Tomkins' willingness to bow before the "cash is bad" convention, and its move to focus on its bigger businesses, seems to have sparked a rerating — whether rationally or not. The company has in fact spent only about a third of the £100 million it committed to share buybacks. This is less than it raised from selling six valve-distribution businesses.

Yesterday's purchase of Golden West Foods, the company that supplies McDonald's with its hamburger buns and tomato ketchup, will fit well with the other dedicated suppliers within its food business. Assuming a standard interest charge and tax rate, Tomkins looks to be paying about 18 times Golden West's earnings last year. That is not cheap, but the company has a good reputation and an excellent relationship with its customer, which is still opening more restaurants in Europe. Golden West is already following and is completing a new factory in Belgium.

Although at 342½p the shares are pricier than before, the management's record and continuity mean they are still fair value.

British Biotech

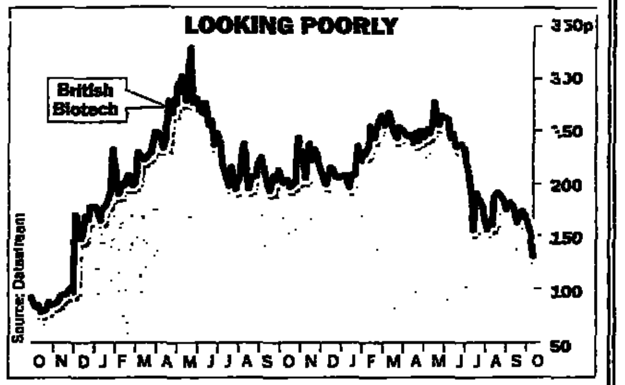
BRITISH BIOTECH is being cut down to size at impressive speed. After its latest setback, shares in the sector leader stand at less than half the price they reached in May.

However one does the sums, it is hard to make sense of yesterday's fall. Most City models valued the abandoned BB-2983 arthritis project at only a fraction of the £100 million that the failure wiped off the market value.

BB-2983 is part of the family of drugs that includes Marimastat, the cancer treatment that is potentially the British industry's first blockbuster product. However, Marimastat successfully cleared the early stage toxicity trials that have brought an end to BB-2983.

Although the latest fall is more to do with the market's nervousness, that does not mean British Biotech is cheap. Even if Marimastat does make it to the market, sceptics doubt whether it can achieve the sales necessary to justify the present valuation of nearly £900 million. Up to 30 per cent of the cancer sufferers who have taken Marimastat have had to suspend the treatment because of associated neck, hand and shoulder pains. Critics argue that pain must be serious to cause terminally ill patients to stop taking the drug — perhaps too serious to allow Marimastat to become a £1 billion seller.

Until results of the drug's phase 3 trials are published in 1999, this stock will remain speculative.



Britton

PAPER and packaging companies have taken a beating of late, and are still unloved by the market.

Britton Group has been one of the hardest hit, losing some 65 per cent of its market value after a June profits warning. The company is taking matters into its own hands, and is ignoring its debts to buy in up to £10 million of its own equity.

This is not your conventional buyback. With gearing of 63 per cent, Britton is not exactly flush with cash. And its confidence has so far failed to impress the City; the shares are still 47 per cent off the year's peak.

The main problem has been in its UK exports, which receive most of the attention but make up less than 15 per cent of sales. The share price fall was overdone from the start.

Britton's main attraction is the US folding cartons business, which generates 63 per cent of sales and is growing strongly. The group has invested in a fifth factory, and has been rewarded with a £20 million order from Kelloggs. The prospects for the US division alone justify all of the present market capitalisation of the whole group.

With no obvious dangers in store, Britton's shares trade on only 9.6 times this year's earnings, and an even more miserly 6.9 times the estimates for 1998. Britton has only a small following and its potential seems to have been overlooked.

The management cannot make their planned 10 per cent buyback until October 28. Until then, the shares remain the best buy in the sector.

Verity

THE licensing of Verity's flat loudspeaker design to several Japanese electronics giants proves that its technology has strong potential in many areas, not least in the production of laptop personal computers. But such deals do not guarantee income. In the time it takes the Japanese to fit the technology into their products, alternative speaker designs could emerge, or worse still, someone could challenge Verity's patent. Farad Azima, the chief executive of Verity who saved the company near collapse in 1993, says he has focused Verity's efforts by getting rid of its non-core businesses. But nothing can alter the fact that the company is still a high risk stock for investors. At 70p, the shares reflect hope of future royalties rather than actual income. Verity has so far failed to give any indication of how much its licensing deals could be worth. Those looking for reassurance in the company's accounts will be disappointed: it yesterday reporting a hefty pre-tax loss of £8 million and flat turnover. At the moment, Verity's exciting prospects are strictly for the brave.

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
106[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	100[illegible]	-[illegible]	14.94	6.57
115[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas [illegible]% 1998	115[illegible]	-[illegible]	4.00	6.97
103[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	100[illegible]	-[illegible]	9.88	6.92
101[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	100[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.24	6.90
110[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	104[illegible]		13.44	6.93
114[illegible]	107[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	107[illegible]	-[illegible]	14.38	6.92
109[illegible]	105[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	105[illegible]		11.41	7.02
105[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	102[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.23	7.01
111[illegible]	107[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	107[illegible]	+[illegible]	11.42	7.00
108[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	105[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.97	6.94
99[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.09	6.92
109[illegible]	105[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	105[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.62	6.94
106[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	104[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.59	6.79
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	103[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.70	6.60
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2000	103[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.21	6.82
119[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	115[illegible]	+[illegible]	11.26	6.75
112[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	110[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.08	6.61
101[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	101[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.87	6.60
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
102[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 7% 2002	102[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.81	6.29
122[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	113[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.56	6.37
107[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	107[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.41	6.30
117[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	117[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.48	6.38
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114[illegible]	+[illegible]	10.61	6.61
90[illegible]	82[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	90[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.87	5.14
118[illegible]	109[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	118[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.04	6.28
102[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	102[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.56	6.23
114[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	114[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.44	6.24
122[illegible]	110[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	119	+[illegible]	7.98	6.26
130[illegible]	124[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.57	6.36
108[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	108[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.89	6.22
110[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	110[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.04	6.25
106[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	106[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.52	6.48
123[illegible]	115[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123[illegible]	+[illegible]	9.58	6.39
116[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	116[illegible]	+1	7.32	6.26
107[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	107[illegible]	+1	6.72	6.19
121[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	121[illegible]	+1[illegible]	7.29	6.24
114[illegible]	101	Treas 8% 2009	114[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.98	6.24
99[illegible]	86[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	99[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.28	6.29
124[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	124[illegible]	+1[illegible]	7.22	6.30
125[illegible]	109[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	125[illegible]	+1[illegible]	7.16	6.30
93[illegible]	80[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	93[illegible]	+[illegible]	5.87	6.16
112[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	112[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.87	6.36
LONGS (over 15 years)						
116[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	116[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.86	6.33
118[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	118[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.76	6.28
128[illegible]	103[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	128[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.89	6.34
121[illegible]	101[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	121[illegible]	+2[illegible]	6.60	6.26
UNDATED						
54[illegible]	49[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	54[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.38	..
37[illegible]	30[illegible]	Treas 2½%	37[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.62	..
58[illegible]	49[illegible]	Consols 4%	57[illegible]	-[illegible]	6.92	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
193[illegible]	184[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	193[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.37	3.05
190[illegible]	180[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	190[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.60	3.08
123[illegible]	117[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	123[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.65	3.06
203[illegible]	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	203[illegible]	+1[illegible]	2.81	3.12
184[illegible]	178[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	184[illegible]	+1[illegible]	2.85	3.10
192[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	192[illegible]	+1[illegible]	2.91	3.13
159[illegible]	144[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	159[illegible]	+1[illegible]	2.95	3.14
171[illegible]	153[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	171[illegible]	+2[illegible]	2.98	3.16
165[illegible]	147[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	165[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.04	3.19
138[illegible]	122[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	138[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.05	3.18
135[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	135[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.04	3.18

[illegible] OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
ASDA	140	17	21	24	—	2	4½
(*156½)	160	2	8	12	5½	9½	12
Abbey Nat	900	53½	95½	112½	4	32½	45
(*948)	950	20	67	85	20½	54	68
All&Lec	700	27½	51	68	3	17½	29
(*722)	750	3½	24½	42	29½	42½	53½
Alld Dom	480	22	35½	47	1½	20	25
(*479½)	500	2	16½	28½	21½	42½	47
BAA	550	28	46½	60½	1½	17	21
(*575)	600	2½	21½	35	26	40½	44½
BAT Ind	550	21	52	83	11	30½	42½
(*559½)	600	5	31½	40½	43	61½	71
Barclays	1600	105½	188	210½	7	62	77½
(*1696)	1700	38	131½	157	38½	105	123
Bass	800	48½	56½	82	2½	27	35½
(*836½)	850	9	38½	55½	21½	51½	59½
Boots	850	54	81	107	1½	19½	29
(*900½)	900	16	51	72	15	38	50
Br Airways	650	20½	47½	63	10½	30½	35
(*662½)	700	2	26	39	39½	58	61½
BP	900	38	72	92	7	31	41½
(*930½)	950	11½	45½	67	27½	54	64½
Br Steel	180	4½	11	17	4½	10½	14½
(*180)	200	—	4	8	20	23½	27
C&W	550	24	50	68½	8½	27½	33½
(*565½)	600	5½	26½	43	36	54	60
CU	800	25	67½	86½	13	45½	60½
(*806½)	850	2	45½	64	46	73	86½
GlaxoW	1350	60	126	151	10	54½	69½
(*1396½)	1400	30	100	124½	28½	77½	92
HSBC	2200	56½	194	252½	30	118½	157
(*2244)	2300	20½	149½	207	81½	166	204½
Halifax	700	37½	65	78½	2	16½	27½
(*735)	750	5½	36	50½	21½	38	50
ICI	1000	33½	79	93½	11	36½	54½
(*1027)	1050	10½	53	70½	37	61	79½
Land Sec	1000	36	66	87	3	26	31
(*1029½)	1050	8½	40½	58½	24½	48	54
M&S	650	21	45	61	5½	24½	29½
(*663½)	700	2	23½	37½	37	50	55
Nat Pwr	550	21½	46	59½	5½	28½	29½
(*566½)	600	2	25½	36	35	52½	56½
Nat West	950	53½	98½	117½	5	40	52
(*997½)	1000	22	71½	91½	22½	62½	75
Reuters	750	32½	68½	91½	7½	31½	47
(*775½)	800	8½	42½	59½	32½	56	71
Ryl&Sun	550	52	73½	84½	1	15½	25½
(*600)	600	15	42½	55	13	40½	47
Safeway	360	18	30½	38½	3	13	15½
(*376)	390	2	15½	23	15½	28	30½
Sainsbury	420	38	50	60	½	7½	12
(*458)	460	8½	25	35½	10	23	27½
Shell	450	35½	52	—	1	10	—
(*483½)	500	5	26	37	19½	29½	39½
SmKl Bch	600	23½	54	66½	7½	28	37½
(*615½)	625	8½	41	53½	19	40½	49½
Stc Chtr	850	26	66½	85½	20½	54	65½
(*852)	900	8	45	62½	53	81½	94
Thames W	850	40	68½	83	4½	24	32
(*883½)	900	11½	41½	55½	25	47½	54
Vodafone	330	20½	35½	44½	2	13½	17
(*347½)	360	4½	20	28½	15½	28	32
Woolwich	300	16	28	35	1½	9	14½
(*313½)	330	1½	13	20	17½	24	29½
Zeneca	2000	90½	174½	212	11	58	85½
(*2080)	2100	25½	119	159½	48	101½	130½
R-Royce	240	11½	21	25½	11	16	19
(*241)	260	5	13½	17	24	28	30½
Tesco	420	43½	55½	64	3½	9	14½
(*458)	460	15½	31½	40	15½	22½	30½
Utd Bisc	200	17½	23½	26	3	4½	7½
(*211½)	220	7	12½	15½	13	13½	17½

	Series	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Nov	Puts Feb	Puts May
BTR	220	23	31½	35	4	11	13½
(*239)	240	10	20	24	11½	18	23
Blue Circ	360	31	42½	47½	6	11	16
(*381½)	390	13½	25½	37	19	23	30
Br Aero	1700	76½	127	169½	30½	65½	81½
(*1726½)	1800	32½	77½	106½	95½	117½	131½
Br Telcm	465	22½	34	—	19	33½	—
(*486½)	515	7	15½	—	52	65	—
Cadbury	600	38	45	53	18	25½	36
(*604)	650	7½	22½	31	48½	54½	64
Energy Gp	650	15½	29	36	10	18	19
(*652)	700	1½	10	15½	48	52	53½
Gallaher	280	19	27½	32	7	11½	17
(*290)	300	9½	17	21½	17	21	27
GEC	390	28½	38½	50½	7½	15½	18½
(*409)	420	12	22	34½	20½	29	32½
Grnd Met	550	40½	55½	69	9	20½	27
(*578½)	600	14½	30½	44	32½	46	51½
Guinness	550	40½	57½	62	8	18	22½
(*577½)	600	14	31	38	31	41½	46½
Hanson	300	14½	25	31	9	14	20
(*309½)	330	3½	12	17½	28½	31½	37
Imp Tob	360	28	24½	30	7½	18½	23
(*368½)	390	6	11	17	24½	38	41½
Kingfshr	800	53½	82	92	18	30	40
(*833)	850	26½	54½	64½	38	52½	62½
Lasmo	280	20½	28½	38	4	8½	11½
(*276)	290	9½	17½	24½	12	17	20½
Ladbroke	260	24	33	37	4½	9	12
(*278)	280	11½	22	28	12½	17	20½
Lucasvar	240	18½	18½	24	8½	14½	18
(*242)	260	3½	10	15	21	28	29½
P&O	650	40½	50	64	8	17	27½
(*678)	700	14	31½	38½	33	40½	51½
Prudentl	650	46½	68½	82	14	25½	36
(*680)	700	19	42½	55½	36	49	58½
Rio Tinto	1000	34½	65½	77½	28	39½	58
(*1001)	1050	14½	42	55	56	67	84
Redland	240	20	31	38	4½	9½	15
(*253)	260	11	21	26½	15	20	25½

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
BG PLC	260	17	24	29½	13	17½	21
(*264)	280	9	17	21	25	28	32½
BSkyB	460	34½	48½	61	25½	34	40½
(*465)	500	17½	31	43½	49	56½	82½
Br Bio	130	24½	34	42½	14	17½	22
(*134)	140	20½	30	38½	19½	23	27½
Centrica	90	8	13½	15½	3	5½	8
(*94)	100	3½	9	10½	8	11	13
Dixons	650	55½	78½	88	19	30½	40
(*678½)	700	30½	49½	62	42½	54½	64
EMI	603	41½	58	—	24	43½	—
(*603)	631	29	48½	—	48½	58	—
Granada	850	51	72	88½	22½	38½	45½
(*866½)	900	27½	48	63	48½	64	70½
GUS	700	47	66	83	22	31	39½
(*715½)	750	23½	42	58	48½	57	63½
Llyds TSB	800	57½	80½	97½	34	50	60
(*812½)	850	35	56½	73½	61½	78	85½
Lonrho	110	11	14	17	4	7½	8½
(*116)	120	5½	8½	12	8½	12½	13½
Norwich	330	22½	33½	39	7½	13½	17½
(*341)	360	9	18½	24½	24	29	33
Orange	220	17½	25½	30	6½	10	12½
(*228½)	240	7½	16	20	16½	20	22½
Railtrck	900	57	77	96½	39½	54	61½
(*905½)	950	35	54	72	67½	81	87½
Scot Pwr	460	43½	55	64	11½	18	22½
(*498)	500	20½	32½	42	27½	35	40½
Tarmac	130	10	13½	18½	4	6	9½
(*137½)	140	5½	8½	11½	9½	11½	15
Tomkins	330	24	31	39	7	12½	15½
(*342½)	360	9	17	24½	22½	26	31
Unilever	1800	137	198	221	48	74	100½
(*1873½)	1900	81½	137	168½	90½	121	148½

October 3. Total: 47558 Calls: 32039 Puts: 15519

FTSE INDEX (*5324½)

Strike	Calls Oct	Calls Nov	Calls Dec	Calls Jan	Calls Jun	Puts Oct	Puts Nov	Puts Dec	Puts Jan	Puts Jun
5150	219	238½	341	371	—	24	70½	95	117	—
5200	176½	251½	302½	334	480	32½	83	108½	131½	214½
5250	137½	215½	268½	304½	—	46	98	127	151	—
5300	103	185½	237½	275	427	64½	118	147½	171½	252½
5350	75	155½	208	246	—	87	138½	168	192	—
5400	52	127	175	217	365½	117½	163½	192½	214½	294
5450	36	105	151½	184	—	151	192½	222	242½	—
5500	27	83	129	173½	319	191	223	253	272	348

October 3 Total: 18338 Calls: 14223 Puts: 2105

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 179541	Dec 97 Mar 98	120-17	121-27	120-01	121-20 121-17	160805 0
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 313650	Dec 97 Mar 98	103.41 102.70	104.04 103.22	103.34 102.70	103.92 103.13	229843 116
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 121445	Dec 97 Mar 98	111.85	113.06	111.85	112.89 112.84	74670 0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97 Mar 98	128.84 128.02	129.23 128.28	128.84 127.98	129.08 128.15	3931 1340
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 624872	Dec 97 Mar 98 Jun 98	92.56 92.52 92.55	92.62 92.61 92.65	92.55 92.52 92.54	92.60 92.59 92.62	27544 33355 33416
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1647571	Dec 97 Mar 98	96.44 96.22	96.47 96.26	96.44 96.20	96.47 96.25	41917 53746
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 434540	Dec 97 Mar 98	93.75 94.56	93.87 94.70	93.74 94.55	93.87 94.65	22360 24279
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98 Jun 98				99.45 99.40	0 0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 156963	Dec 97 Mar 98	98.25 98.09	98.28 98.12	98.25 98.07	98.27 98.10	12733 5362
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 36290	Dec 97 Mar 98	95.58 95.53	95.59 95.54	95.57 95.52	95.59 95.54	641 535
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 69581	Dec 97 Mar 98	5365.0	5435.0	5326.0	5395.0 5443.0	14871 0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7[illegible] Low 7 Week fixed: 7[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7; 3 mth 7. Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth: 6[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 7[illegible] close 7[illegible].

Local Authority Deps	7[illegible]	n/a	7[illegible]	7[illegible]	7[illegible]
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	5.54	n/a	5.61	5.66	5.78
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £595m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.265% received: 30%; Last week: £98.28% received: 94%; Avge rate: £6.9450% last wk £6.8969%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $331.10-331.50 Close: $333.10-333.50 High: $333.25-333.75

Low: $330.40-330.90 AM: $331.10 PM: $331.70

Krugerrand: $332.75-334.75 (£206.25-208.25)

Platinum: $426.00 (£265.40) Silver: $5.23 (£3.245) Palladium: $192.50 (£119.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for October 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1983-3.2302	3.1983-3.2019	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Brussels	58.594-59.210	58.594-58.693	20-15pr	57-50pr
Copenhagen	10.809-10.922	10.809-10.820	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.1069-1.1190	1.1083-1.1108	12-5pr	34-27pr
Frankfurt	2.8398-2.8683	2.8398-2.8424	1-[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Lisbon	289.26-292.21	289.26-289.62	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]-1[illegible]pr
Madrid	239.83-242.15	239.83-240.03	44-34pr	136-117pr
Milan	2780.9-2809.1	2780.9-2785.1	17-2pr	54-32pr
Montreal	2.2022-2.2164	2.2100-2.2122	0.70-0.65pr	1.38-1.30pr
New York	1.6028-1.6128	1.6115-1.6125	0.223-0.202pr	0.638-0.597pr
Oslo	11.332-11.453	11.332-11.348	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Paris	9.5436-9.6400	9.5436-9.5516	3[illegible]-3pr	9[illegible]-9[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.128-12.311	12.128-12.143	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	195.91-197.20	196.95-197.20	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3[illegible]pr
Vienna	19.983-20.185	19.983-20.004	[illegible]pr	2-1[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3380-2.3544	2.3380-2.3410	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3715-1.3724
Austria	12.44-12.45
Belgium (Com)	36.50-36.52
Canada	1.3707-1.3712
Denmark	6.7350-6.7380
France	5.9447-5.9469
Germany	1.7694-1.7704
Hong Kong	7.7378-7.7388
Ireland	1.4470-1.4490
Italy	1732.0-1734.0
Japan	122.10-122.20
Malaysia	3.3650-3.3700
Netherlands	1.9924-1.9934
Norway	7.0726-7.0746
Portugal	180.19-180.27
Singapore	1.5420-1.5430
Spain	149.43-149.51
Sweden	7.5631-7.5681
Switzerland	1.4576-1.4586

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6085-1.6112
Australia dollar	2.2064-2.2093
Bahrain dinar	0.6005-0.6145
Brazil real*	1.7614-1.7658
China yuan	13.201-13.501
Cyprus pound	0.8370-0.8560
Finland markka	8.5200-8.6610
Greece drachma	446.75-457.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.4424-12.4517
India rupee	57.68-58.98
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4825-0.4935
Malaysia ringgit	5.4069-5.4166
New Zealand dollar	2.5054-2.5089
Pakistan rupee	63.70 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7975-5.9325
Singapore dollar	2.4780-2.4811
S Africa rand (com)	7.4340-7.6030
U A E dirham	5.8500-5.9860

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	840	Legal & Gn	2,500
ASDA Gp	3,700	Lloyds TSB	12,400
Abbey Ntl	6,300	LucasVarity	6,700
Allnce & Leic	2,900	Marks Spr	3,400
Allied Dom	1,200	NatWst Bk	13,000
AB Foods	629	Nat Grid	3,500
BAA	2,100	Nat Power	970
BAT Inds	9,200	Next	1,200
BG	19,000	Norwich U	16,400
BOC	1,400	Orange	1,300
BP	10,700	P & O	5,300
BSkyB	2,200	Pearson	7,600
BTR	8,600	PowerGen	557
BT	52,200	Prudential	5,000
Bk of Scot	7,900	RMC	134
Barclays	14,700	Railtrack	1,400
Bass	2,100	Rank Group	1,200
Billiton	4,100	Reckitt Col	504
Blue Circle	2,600	Reed Intl	2,700
Boots	1,300	Rentokil	2,300
BAe	914	Reuters	8,300
BA	3,100	Rio Tinto	2,500
British Land	2,000	Rolls Royce	6,900
Brit Steel	3,700	Royal & Sun	3,400
Cable Wire	4,900	Royal Bk Sct	4,100
Cadbury	2,500	Safeway	5,900
Carlton Cms	1,100	Sainsbury	2,900
Centrica	12,900	Schroders	96
Cm Union	1,200	Scot & New	2,400
Dixons	2,100	Scot Power	2,500
EMI	799	Svrn Trent	1,900
Energy Gp	1,300	Shell Trans	11,500
Enterpr Oil	4,000	Siebe	1,300
GKN	1,700	SmKl Bch	5,800
GRE	1,200	Smiths Inds	560
GUS	4,000	Std Chartd	3,400
Gen Acc	580	Sun Life	280
Gen Elec	6,100	TI Gp	1,400
Glaxo Well	4,300	Tesco	3,600
Granada	2,800	Thames W	706
Grand Met	9,200	Tomkins	1,200
Guinness	6,400	Unilever	2,600
HSBC	2,000	Utd Utilities	1,100
Halifax	4,100	Utd News	772
Hays	895	Vodafone	6,600
ICI	1,600	Whitbread	496
Kingfisher	4,100	Williams	1,000
LASMO	2,700	Wolseley	506
Ladbroke	7,000	Woolwich	5,600
Land Secs	3,500	Zeneca	1,800

WALL STREET

	Oct 3 midday	Oct 2 close
AMP Inc	53[illegible]	52[illegible]
AMR Corp	113[illegible]	113[illegible]
AT & T	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Abbott Labs	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Advanced Micro	29[illegible]	28[illegible]
Aetna Life	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	82[illegible]	82
AirTouch Comm	37[illegible]	36[illegible]
Albertson's	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Alcan Alumnm	34[illegible]	35
Allied Signal	42[illegible]	41[illegible]
Alum Co of Am	82[illegible]	82[illegible]
Amerada Hess	61[illegible]	60[illegible]
Amer El Power	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Amer Express	85[illegible]	83[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	54[illegible]	53[illegible]
Amer Home Pr	71[illegible]	70[illegible]
Amer Intl	107[illegible]	105[illegible]
Amer Stores	25[illegible]	24[illegible]
Amer Standard	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Ameritech	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Amgen	48	47[illegible]
Amoco	97[illegible]	96[illegible]
Andrew Corp	27[illegible]	26[illegible]
Anheuser-Busch	45[illegible]	44[illegible]
Apple Computer	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Archer Daniels	24	23[illegible]
Armco	6	6
Armstrng Wrld	67[illegible]	66[illegible]
Asarco	32[illegible]	31[illegible]
Atl Richfield	84[illegible]	84[illegible]
Atmel Corp	36[illegible]	35[illegible]
Auto Data Pro	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Avery Dennison	41[illegible]	41
Avon Products	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Baker Hughes	45	44[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Banc One	58[illegible]	57
BankAmerica	79[illegible]	76[illegible]
Bank of NY	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	124[illegible]	123[illegible]
Barnett Banks	74[illegible]	72[illegible]
Bausch & Lomb	41[illegible]	40[illegible]
Baxter Intl	53[illegible]	53[illegible]
Becton Dicknsn	49[illegible]	48[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	83	81[illegible]
BellSouth	49[illegible]	48[illegible]
Black & Decker	38	37[illegible]
Block (H&R)	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Boeing	50[illegible]	52[illegible]
Boise Cascade	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
Boston Scien	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	84[illegible]	83[illegible]
Browning Ferris	38[illegible]	37[illegible]
Brunswick	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	97[illegible]	97[illegible]
CMS Energy Corp	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
CPC Intl	94[illegible]	93[illegible]
CSX	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Campbell Soup	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Carolina Pwr	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Case Corp	66[illegible]	65[illegible]
Caterpillar	55[illegible]	54[illegible]
Central & SW	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Champion Intl	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Chase Manhat	123[illegible]	120[illegible]
Chevron Corp	85[illegible]	84[illegible]
Chrysler	36[illegible]	35[illegible]
Chubb Corp	73[illegible]	72[illegible]
Cigna Corp	174	172
Citicorp	138[illegible]	135[illegible]
Clorox	75	73[illegible]
Coastal Corp	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Coca Cola	63[illegible]	62[illegible]
Coca Cola Ent	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Colgate-Palm	71[illegible]	69[illegible]
Columbia Gas	73[illegible]	72[illegible]
ColumbiaHCA	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Compaq Comp	76[illegible]	75[illegible]
Comp Ass Intl	76[illegible]	74[illegible]
Conagra	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Cons Edison	35	34[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Cooper Inds	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Corestates	68[illegible]	67[illegible]
Corning Inc	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Cwide Credit	36[illegible]	35[illegible]
Crestar Fial	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Crown Cork	46	45[illegible]
Dana Corp	52[illegible]	52
Dayton Hudson	61[illegible]	60[illegible]
Deere	54[illegible]	53[illegible]
Delta Air Lines	95[illegible]	94[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	34[illegible]	33[illegible]
Digital Equip	45[illegible]	44[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
Disney (Walt)	85[illegible]	83[illegible]
Dominion Res	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Donelley (RR)	36[illegible]	35[illegible]
Dover Corp	66[illegible]	64[illegible]
Dow Chemical	93[illegible]	92[illegible]
Dow Jones	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Dresser	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
Duke Power	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Dun & Bradstreet	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Du Pont	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Eastman Chem	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Eaton Corp	96[illegible]	95[illegible]
Edison Intl	26[illegible]	25[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Emerson Elec	57	56[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Enron Corp	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Entergy	26[illegible]	25[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	9[illegible]	9[illegible]
Exxon	65[illegible]	64[illegible]
FMC Corp	89[illegible]	88[illegible]
FPL Group	52	51[illegible]
Federal Express	80[illegible]	80
Fifth Third Banc	68[illegible]	67[illegible]
Fleet Finl Grp	67[illegible]	66[illegible]
Fluor Corp	53[illegible]	53[illegible]
Ford Motor	47[illegible]	46[illegible]
Fort James	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Fortune Brands	34[illegible]	33[illegible]
Franklin Res	96[illegible]	95
GTE Corp	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Gannett	108[illegible]	108[illegible]
Gap Inc Del	52[illegible]	51[illegible]
Gateway 2000	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	87[illegible]	86[illegible]
Gen Electric	70[illegible]	69[illegible]
Gen Mills	70[illegible]	70[illegible]
Gen Motors	69[illegible]	68[illegible]
Gen Reinsurance	202[illegible]	200[illegible]
Gen Signal	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Genuine Parts	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Georgia Pac	106[illegible]	105[illegible]
Gillette	88[illegible]	87[illegible]
Glaxo Welc ADR	45	44[illegible]
Goodrich (BF)	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Goodyear Tire	69[illegible]	69
Great Lakes	53	52
Halliburton	53[illegible]	53[illegible]
Harcourt General	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Heinz (HJ)	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Hercules	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Hershey Foods	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Hewlett Packard	71[illegible]	70[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Home Depot	53[illegible]	52[illegible]
Homestake Mng	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Honeywell	69[illegible]	68[illegible]
Household Intl	118[illegible]	115[illegible]
Houston Inds	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Humana	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
ITT Corp	68[illegible]	66[illegible]
Ikon Office	26[illegible]	25[illegible]
Illinois Tool	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Illinova	22	21[illegible]
INCO	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Ingersoll Rand	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Inland Steel	21[illegible]	20[illegible]
Intel Corp	94[illegible]	93[illegible]
IBM	106[illegible]	104[illegible]
Intl Flav & Fr	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Intl Paper	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	59[illegible]	58[illegible]
Kellogg	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Kerr-McGee	68[illegible]	68[illegible]
Kimberly-Clark	49[illegible]	48[illegible]
Kmart	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Knight-Ridder	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Lilly (Eli)	124[illegible]	123
Limited Inc	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Lincoln Nat	72[illegible]	71[illegible]
Litton	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Liz Claiborne	57[illegible]	56[illegible]
Lockheed Martin	106[illegible]	104[illegible]
Louisiana Pac	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
MCI Comm	37[illegible]	36[illegible]
Manpower Inc	39[illegible]	39
Marriott Intl	73[illegible]	73[illegible]
Marsh & McLnn	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
Masco Corp	47[illegible]	46[illegible]
May Dept St	54[illegible]	53[illegible]
Maytag Corp	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
McDonalds	48[illegible]	47[illegible]
McGraw Hill	69[illegible]	69[illegible]
Mead Corp	72[illegible]	71[illegible]
Medtronic	49	48[illegible]
Mellon Bk	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Merck Inc	102[illegible]	101[illegible]
Mercury Fin	1[illegible]	1[illegible]
Merrill Lynch	75[illegible]	74[illegible]
Microsoft	135	133[illegible]
Minnesota Mine	96[illegible]	95[illegible]
Mirage Resorts	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Mobil Corp	75[illegible]	74[illegible]
Monsanto	40[illegible]	40
Morgan (JP)	117[illegible]	114[illegible]
Motorola Inc	71[illegible]	69[illegible]
Mylan Labs	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Natl Semi	41[illegible]	41
Natl Service Ind	44[illegible]	44
Navistar Intl	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
NY Times A	53	52[illegible]
Newmont Mng	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Nike B	53[illegible]	52[illegible]
NL Industries	16[illegible]	16[illegible]
Nordstrom	64[illegible]	63[illegible]
Norfolk Sthrn	103[illegible]	103[illegible]
Nthn State Pwr	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Norwest Corp	65[illegible]	63[illegible]
Occidental Pet	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Ohio Edison	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Oracle	37[illegible]	36
Oryx Energy Co	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Owens Corning	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
PPG Industries	65[illegible]	64[illegible]
PMI Group	59[illegible]	58[illegible]
PNC Bank	50	49[illegible]
PP&L Res	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Paccar Inc	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Pacificorp	23[illegible]	23
Pac Enterprises	34[illegible]	33[illegible]
Pall Corp	22[illegible]	21[illegible]
Parker Hannifin	47[illegible]	46[illegible]
Peco Energy	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Penney (JC)	60[illegible]	59[illegible]
Pennzoil	81[illegible]	81[illegible]
Pepsico	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Pfizer	63[illegible]	61[illegible]
Pharm & Upjhn	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Philip Morris	43[illegible]	43
Phillips Pet	51[illegible]	51
Pitney Bowes	84[illegible]	84[illegible]
Polaroid	52[illegible]	51[illegible]
Procter & Gmbl	72[illegible]	71[illegible]
Providian	39[illegible]	37[illegible]
Pub Serv E & G	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Quaker Oats	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Ralston Purina	93[illegible]	92[illegible]
Raychem Corp	85[illegible]	84[illegible]
Raytheon	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Reebok Intl	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Reliastar Fin	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Reynolds Metals	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
Rockwell Intl	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Rohm & Haas	94[illegible]	93[illegible]
Royal Dutch	58[illegible]	57[illegible]
Rubbermaid	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
SBC Comms	62[illegible]	61[illegible]
Safeco Corp	52[illegible]	51[illegible]
St Paul's Cos	82[illegible]	82[illegible]
Salomon Inc	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
Sara Lee Corp	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Schering Plough	53[illegible]	52[illegible]
Schlumberger	86[illegible]	86[illegible]
Seagram	35[illegible]	34[illegible]
Sears Roebuck	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Shell Trans	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Sherwin Wlms	29[illegible]	28[illegible]
Silicon Graphics	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Snap-On-Tools	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Southern Co	23[illegible]	23
Southtrust	51	50[illegible]
Sprint Corp	53[illegible]	51[illegible]
Stanley Works	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Sun Company	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Sun Microsys	47[illegible]	45[illegible]
Suntrust	70	68[illegible]
Supervalu	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Synovus Fin	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Sysco Corp	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
TRW Inc	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
TIG Hldgs	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Tandy Corp	34	33[illegible]
Temple Inland	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Tenet Healthcare	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Tenneco	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Texaco	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Texas Inst	135[illegible]	134
Texas Utilities	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Textron	65[illegible]	65[illegible]
Thermo Elect	41[illegible]	40[illegible]
Time Warner	55[illegible]	54[illegible]
Times-Mirror A	57[illegible]	58
Timken	40	39[illegible]
Torchmark	41[illegible]	40[illegible]
Toys R Us	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Transamerica	101[illegible]	101[illegible]
Travelers	71[illegible]	69[illegible]
Tribune	55[illegible]	55
UST Inc	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
US Bancorp	100[illegible]	99[illegible]
UAL	87[illegible]	87
Unitrin	65[illegible]	65[illegible]
US Inds	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
US West Comm	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
US West Media	23	22[illegible]
USAirways Group	45	44
USX Marathon	37[illegible]	38[illegible]
Unicom	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Unilever NV	220[illegible]	216[illegible]
Union Camp	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Union Carbide	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Union Pacific	64[illegible]	63[illegible]
Unisys Corp	15[illegible]	15
USF&G Corp	23[illegible]	22[illegible]
United Tech	81[illegible]	80[illegible]
Unocal Corp	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
VF Corp	93[illegible]	93[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	37[illegible]	36[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	134[illegible]	132[illegible]
Waste Mngmt	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Wells Fargo	290	285
Westinghouse El	29	28[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	60[illegible]	59[illegible]
Whirlpool	66	65[illegible]
Whitman	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Winn Dixie	37[illegible]	36[illegible]
Witco Corp	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Woolworth	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	77[illegible]	76[illegible]
Xerox	86[illegible]	85
Xilinx Inc	48[illegible]	46[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

'No win, no fee' litigation planned

■ Middle class people who cannot afford to go to law will be granted access to the courts under sweeping changes to the legal system which the Government will unveil this month.

Ministers are to scrap the legal aid scheme for most civil disputes, saving up to £800 million, and to embrace "no win, no fee" litigation for all civil claims over money or damages ...... **Page 1**

Spencer condemns Morton biography

■ *Earl Spencer publicly condemned Andrew Morton's revised* biography of Diana, Princess of Wales. As Trevor Rees-Jones, *the sole survivor of the Paris car crash which killed the Princess,* left hospital and returned home to Britain, a spokeswoman for the earl criticised the book .... **Pages 1, 8**

Campaigner banned

A Yorkshire multimillionaire, who has launched a campaign against the Tory ballot to endorse William Hague's leadership, has been barred from next week's party conference.............. **Pages 1, 14, 15**

Nanny gazumpers

Professional couples are facing an *outbreak of "nanny gazumping"* after a demand surge .... **Page 1**

Prescott's appeal

John Prescott wound up Labour's victory conference with a rallying cry to the party to secure two full terms .... **Pages 2, 23**

Actors' boycott

Advertising agencies are holding *talent contests among their own* staff as they struggle to beat an actors' *boycott* .... **Page 3**

Fate of a wife

A man murdered his wife on their second honeymoon after insuring her for more than £800,000, a court was told..................... **Page 5**

Food for protection

Supermarkets have responded to government cancer warnings to meat eaters by promoting foods that are believed to provide some protection.............................. **Page 17**

Misery in Assisi

The Upper Church of the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi has *suffered yet more earthquake* damage................. **Pages 10, 11, 23**

Papon trial

Maurice Papon, *87,* one-time Cabinet minister and Paris police chief, is about to go on trial for crimes against humanity............. **Page 16**

Mossad scandal

Israel is braced for an espionage scandal over its botched Mossad operation in Jordan .... **Page 18**

Adventures new

As his shuttle separated from the Mir space station, Michael Foale was clearly ready for a new adventure .... **Page 19**

Bones put Indians on the warpath

■ In zip-lock bags, barred from view in a federal laboratory in Washington state, lie the remains of a 9,300-year-old skeleton that could transform our knowledge of how North America was populated — and has provoked Indian fury .... **Pages 19, 23**

MERCURY

The Duke of Westminster opens an extension to the Blacon Project, a Chester community organisation of which he is patron

NEWS FEATURES

For those in peril: The catches are getting smaller and Somerset's silt flats will soon be left to the ghosts, says Simon de Bruxelles.... **Page 9**

Major and the gays: *Today's* extract from Anthony *Seldon's Major: A Political Life* tells what happened at a *supper party when Sir Ian Mc-*Kellen asked John Major if *he could talk to him about* "a social matter"........... **Page 15**

Dark corners: Alan Franks finds the inquiry into abuse in children's homes in North Wales playing to an almost empty house .... **Page 20**

[illegible]

Battle of the bones: Those who sent Apollo to the Moon should be willing to examine their own past .... **Page 23**

A patriot for me: Britain took risks for freedom. It can be a beacon again .... **Page 23**

Dad's Army cleans up: As Lord Kitchener famously *said: "The Country* Needs You" .... **Page 23**

OBITUARIES

Bryan Ingham, painter and sculptor; **Sir Anthony Dawson,** former Physician to the Queen; **John Fleming,** academic lawyer .... **Page 25**

[illegible]

Simon Jenkins: Driving towards Wells, you will be surprised by a stone sceptre rising like Excalibur from across the fields. The sceptre is a church tower coated in filigree ornament...... **Page 22**

Jonathan Sacks: Commentators have been searching for the sources of Tony Blair's political philosophy. Several gurus have been wrongly identified.................. **Page 22**

[illegible]

In Prime Minister's footsteps; stopping church raiders; Nicene Creed .... **Page 23**

[illegible]

Barclays: The bank put its stockbroking and investment banking arms up for sale afer summoning staff to a meeting at 7.30am in London's Docklands .... **Page 27**

Tomkins: The conglomerate *that owns* RHM bakers has bought Golden West Foods, *which supplies* McDonald's fast food outlets........ **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 34.7 to close at 5330.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 100.5 to 100.1 after a fall from $1.6161 to $1.6117 and from DM2.8547 to DM2.8406 .... **Page 31**

[illegible]

Football: Liverpool were paired with Strasbourg in the second round of the Uefa Cup. Aston Villa face Athletic Bilbao...... **Page 36**

Tennis: Greg Rusedski reached the semi-finals of the ATP Tour event with a three-set win over Thomas Enqvist .... **Page 34**

Rugby league: Bradford Bulls lost 62-14 to Auckland Warriors in the world *club championship quarter-finals* .... **Page 40**

Golf: Bernhard Langer led by one stroke in the German Masters ...... **Page 34**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Call of the Wild: Frans Lanting's portraits of animals reveal their star quality .... **Page 40**

Special relationship: The best feature of Philip Lader, the new US Ambassador, is his friendship with Bill Clinton.......... **Page 10**

Rich kids: .... **Page 19**

Food & Drink: .... **Page 91**

[illegible]

Comic book hero: The late Roy Lichtenstein's last interview.............. **Page 26**

Peter the great: Conversation with Pete Postlethwaite, Hollywood's unlikeliest star.......... **Page 6**

Love story: "A mating ritual for dysfunctional people" .... **Page 48**

WEEKEND

Sisters: Hilary du Pré speaks about England's greatest cellist........ **Page 1**

My favourite shop: Clive Anderson and ironmonger's humour......... **Page 4**

The rise of tweed: Now Miss Marple comes to town .... **Page 5**

Little darlings: Feed them books......................... **Page 9**

Vision

Full seven-day Radio & TV guide

Powell dancers: The Music of Time....... **Page 9**

Paul Hoggart: and the mystery of life and the universe .... **Page 2**

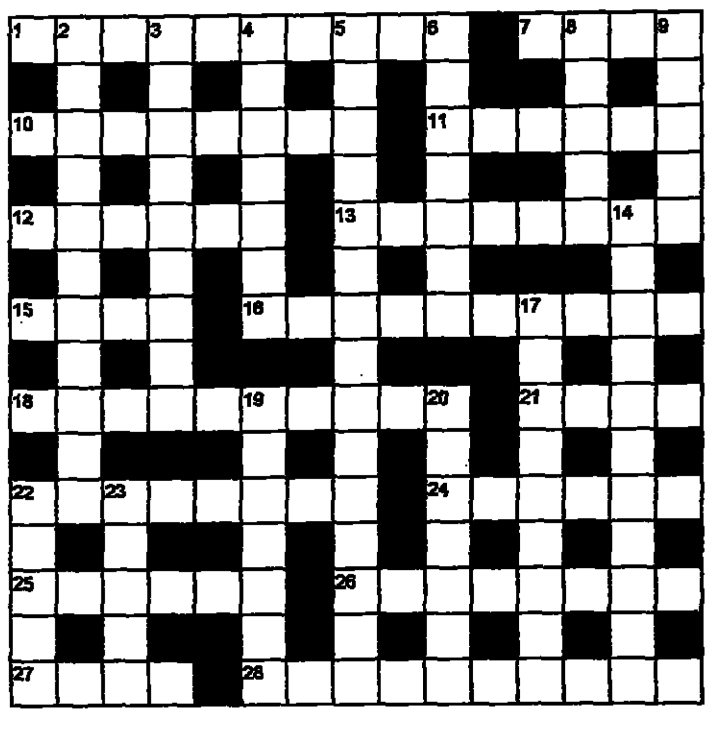
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,602

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



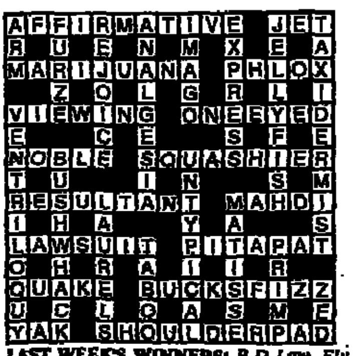
ACROSS

1 Method of buying remote piece of land (5-5).
7 Pleased with good boy (4).
10 Rabble-rouser has a foreign private army to run (8).
11 Gambling's permitted here – it's an offence in Colorado (6).
12 A jolly girl joined the navy (6).
13 Con, e.g. in evil corruption (8).
15 Barrage playing a part in the attack (4).
16 Leaving the country, Eastern plane helping (10).
18 When cooked, rice proved dear (10).
21 European agricultural measure showing fairness? Oddly, not at all (4).
22 Beetle old maid found going round rubbish (8).
24 More than one call is after five? It is (6).
25 Physical education with many a game (6).
26 Idealistic politician upset after I twice defected (8).
27 Story about great achievements, featuring original characters (4).
28 Dark brown water running, not left in glass (5,5).

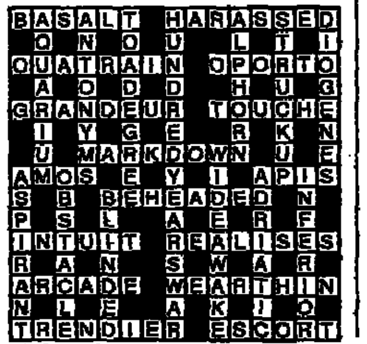
DOWN

2 Workaholic bore part of helmet (5,6).
3 Sort of fan too much encroaching on player? (9).
4 Fruitcake can't use bananas (7).
5 Woodbine made from tobacco by following some Americans (8,7).
6 Bring back playground again (7).
8 Prone to be producing inventions (5).
9 Doctor and I keep talking on and on (5).
14 Waterside plant superlatively unconfined and rampant (11).
17 With one absent, teaches class to do conversions (9).
19 Stalks of shrub, say, to dig (7).
20 Departing from the norm in Advent, I took a break (7).
22 Writer emerges, talking (5).
23 Prisoner's place of confinement (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,596



Solution to Puzzle No 20,601



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *P D Law, Ely, Cambridgshire; J A Edwards, Falmouth, Cornwall; L Donald, Inverness; J M Fraser, Rhydwyn, Holyhead; H Lambert, Taunton, Somerset.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7 06 am
Sun sets: 6.32 pm
Moon sets 6.00 pm
Moon rises 9.44 am

First quarter October 9

London 6.32 pm to 7.08 am
Bristol 6 41 pm to 7.17 am
Edinburgh 6 40 pm to 7.24 am
Manchester 6.39 pm to 7.18 am
Penzance 6.54 pm to 7.28 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.08 am
Sun sets: 6.29 pm
Moon sets 6.32 pm
Moon rises 10.47 am

First quarter October 9

London 6.29 pm to 7.09 am
Bristol 6.39 pm to 7.19 am
Edinburgh 6.38 pm to 7.26 am
Manchester 6.36 pm to 7 19 am
Penzance 6.52 pm to 7.30 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	04 06	7.1	16.18	7 1
Aberdeen	03.26	4.3	15 45	4.2
Avonmouth	09.29	13.0	21.41	13.0
Belfast	00.57	3.5	13 12	3.4
Cardiff	09.15	12.0	21.27	12.0
Devonport	07.59	5 5	20.14	5.6
Dover	*01.01*	6.5	13 17	*6.5*
Dublin (N Wall)	01.36	4 0	13.48	3.9
Falmouth	07.30	5 3	19 45	5.4
Greenock	02 38	3.4	15 12	3 4
Harwich	02 02	4 0	14.15	4.0
Holyhead	00:18	5.5	12.35	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	08 31	8.6	20.50	8 5
Ilfracombe	*08.12*	*9.0*	*20.25*	*9.0*
King's Lynn	08.35	6 7	20.55	6.5
Leith	04.55	6.4	17.09	5.4
Liverpool	01 15	9.3	13.30	9.2
Lowestoft	11 43	2.6	-	-
Margate	02 06	4.7	14 17	4.7
Milford Haven	08 26	6.8	20.39	6.8
Newquay	07.17	6 8	19 30	6.8
Oban	08.00	4.0	19.59	4.0
Penzance	06.48	5.4	19.01	5.4
Portland	09 03	2.0	21.17	2.0
Portsmouth	01.20	4.5	13.39	4.6
Shoreham	01 08	5.9	13.26	6.0
Southampton	*00.45*	*4.5*	*13.02*	*4.5*
Swansea	08.36	9.4	20.49	9.3
Tees	05 43	5.3	18.09	5.2
Walton-on-N	01 55	4.1	14.09	4.1

All times BST. Hights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Salcombe, Devon, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: *Lerwick, Shetland, 0.39in, highest sunshine:* Guernsey 9.3hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43 6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** cloudy across Scotland with *hill fog and light rain, although the* southeast should stay dry. Later some heavier rain in the north and *northwest.* Northern Ireland and northwest England may see some drizzle. Over the hills and some coasts it will be misty. Wales and the rest of England should stay dry with some brightness. Tonight, Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with drizzle along the coast. Scotland will also be cloudy with drizzle in the southwest and heavier rain in the north. The southeast should remain dry. The rest of the UK will be dry with broken cloud and clear spells.

☐ ***London, SE England, E Anglia,*** **Central S England, E Midlands:** a cloudy start, but mainly dry with sunny spells *later. Light southwest wind. Max 20C (68F).*

☐ **E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles:** dry with sunny and cloudy periods. Moderate west wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, N Ireland:** drizzle on coasts and hills. Elsewhere mainly cloudy, but dry with the best of any *sun in the east. Moderate* west to southwest wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** mainly cloudy but dry. Fresh southwest wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ ***SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central*** **Highlands, Argyll:** predominantly cloudy with outbreaks of light rain. Fresh to strong southwest wind. *Max 17C (63F).*

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland:** cloudy with light rain, becoming heavy. Strong southwest wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ ***Orkney, Shetland:*** *rather cloudy with* light rain, turning heavier. Strong southwest wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy with some drizzle. Bright intervals in the East. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Outlook:** staying unsettled in Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England with rain or showers. Wales and the rest of England will be dry and bright, with some thundery showers overnight.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

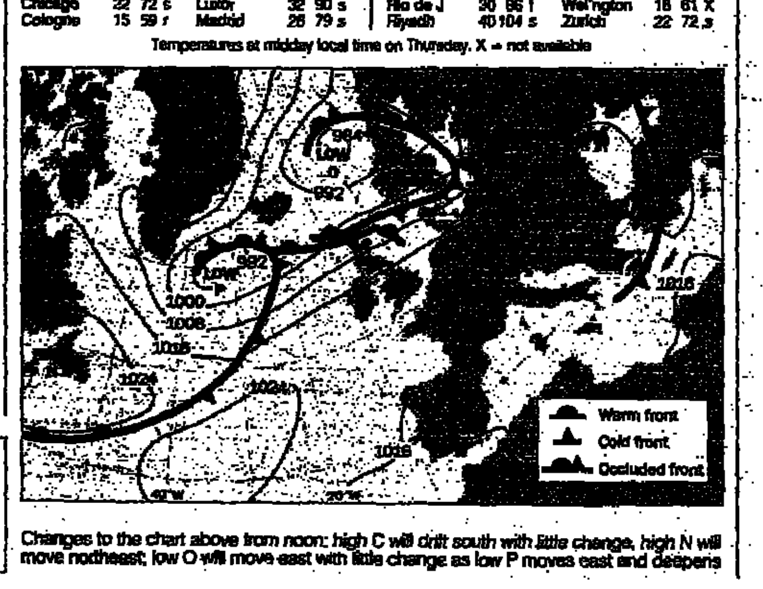
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	7.1	0.01	21	70	s
Anglesey	3.4	0.01	17	63	b
Aspatria	1.5	0.01	15	59	d
Aviemore	5.7	0.01	18	64	b
Belfast	2.1	0.01	18	64	s
Birmingham	3.6	-	19	66	c
Bognor R	*7.1*	-	*19*	*66*	*s*
Bournem'th	X				
Bristol	1.2	-	16	61	c
Buxton	4.8	0.01	15	59	b
Cardiff	1.6	0.01	15	59	d
Clacton	6.7	-	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	2.4	-	18	64	b
Colwyn Bay	5.4	-	18	64	s
Cromer	6.2	-	17	63	s
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	5.1	-	*18*	*64*	*s*
Edinburgh	4 0	0.01	17	63	b
Eskdalemuir	X				
Exmouth	4.2	-	17	63	c
Falmouth	3.1	-	18	64	b
Fishguard	1.6	0.05	16	61	d
Folkestone	2.2	-	16	61	c
Glasgow	1.0	0.01	16	61	r
Guernsey	9.3	-	20	68	s
Hastings	3.0	-	17	63	b
Hayling I.	*1.2*	-	20	*68*	*s*
Herne Bay	0.9	-	17	63	du
Hove	5.9	-	19	66	s
Hunstanton	4.3	-	17	63	b
Isle of Man	2.3	-	17	63	c
Isle of Wight	5.7	-	19	66	b
Jersey	8.0	-	20	68	s
Kinloss	*1.9*	*0.01*	*17*	*63*	b
Leeds	5.3	-	18	64	s
Lerwick	0.5	0.39	12	54	r
Leuchars	6.8	-	20	68	s
Littlehmptn	7.2	-	18	64	s
London	5.5	-	18	64	s
Lowestoft	X				
Manchester	2.6	-	17	63	b
Margate	1.4	-	16	61	c
Minehead	5.1	0 01	16	61	b
Morecambe	2.2	0 01	16	61	c
Newcastle	4.9	-	17	63	s
Newquay	0.8	-	17	63	c
Norwich	6.8	-	17	63	b
Oxford	4.3	-	18	64	b
Penzance	X	-	21	70	s
Poole	4.3	-	20	68	s
Prestatyn	X				
Ross-on-Wye	2.6	-	17	63	c
Salcombe	*3.9*	-	22	72	b
Saunton Snd	2.5	-	17	63	du
Scarboro'	7.4	-	17	63	s
Shrewsbury	3.2	0.01	18	64	d
Skegness	3.0	-	17	63	c
Southend	X	-	19	66	b
Southport	3.2	-	17	63	b
Southsea	6.1	-	21	70	s
Stornoway	-	0.08	14	57	r
Swanage	5.4	-	19	66	s
Teignmouth	4.0	-	*18*	*64*	*c*
Tenby	2.6	0.06	18	64	c
Tiree	X				
Torquay	4.6	-	18	64	s
Tynemouth	-	-	17	63	b
West-s-mare	1 0	-	17	63	du
Weymouth	6.0	-	18	64	s

[illegible]

	C	F	
Ajaccio	26	79	f
Akrotiri	25	77	s
Alex'dria	26	79	f
Algiers	28	82	s
Amst'dm	15	59	c
Athens	26	79	s
B Aires	X		
Bahrain	35	95	s
Bangkok	33	91	f
Barbados	30	86	s
Barcelona	28	82	s
Beirut	26	79	s
Belgrade	21	70	s
Berlin	14	*57*	*f*
Bermuda	28	82	f
Biarritz	22	72	c
Borde'x	27	81	s
Brussels	15	59	c
Budapst	17	63	f
Cairo	28	82	s
Cape Tn	*21*	*70*	*s*
Ch'church	21	70	X
Chicago	22	72	s
Cologne	15	59	*r*
Corfu	25	77	f
C'phagn	10	50	f
Dublin	15	59	f
Dubrovnik	*22*	72	c
Faro	26	79	s
Florence	X		
Frankfurt	17	63	c
Funchal	24	75	s
Geneva	23	73	s
Gibraltar	25	77	s
Helsinki	10	50	c
Hong K	29	84	s
Innsbrck	22	72	f
Istanbul	*19*	*66*	*s*
Jeddah	35	95	s
Jo'burg	24	75	s
L Angels	23	73	f
L Palmas	25	77	s
Le Touqt	17	63	f
Lisbon	27	81	s
Locarno	22	72	*s*
Luxembg	18	64	*f*
Luxor	32	90	s
Madrid	*26*	*79*	*s*
Majorca	27	81	s
Malaga	27	81	s
Malta	X		
Melb'rne	*16*	*61*	*c*
Mexico C	X		
Miami	30	86	s
Milan	X		
Montreal	11	52	s
Moscow	6	43	c
Munich	16	61	f
N Delhi	29	84	f
N York	14	57	s
Nairobi	X		
Naples	X		
Nice	24	75	f
Oslo	11	52	f
Paris	21	70	f
Peking	20	68	c
Perth	17	63	c
Prague	13	55	f
Reykjavik	*9*	*48*	*d*
Rhodes	23	73	s
Rio de J	30	86	f
Riyadh	40	*104*	*s*
Rome	X		
S Fr'sco	19	66	s
S Paulo	24	75	c
Salzburg	*17*	*63*	*r*
Santiago	15	59	f
Seoul	25	77	s
Sing'por	31	88	c
St'kholm	11	52	*f*
Strasb'rg	22	72	c
Sydney	30	86	s
Tangier	27	81	f
Tel Aviv	27	81	*f*
Tenerife	27	81	f
Tokyo	22	72	*f*
Toronto	9	48	r
Tunis	29	84	s
Valencia	29	84	s
Vanc'ver	13	55	c
Venice	X		
Vienna	16	61	r
Warsaw	*11*	*52*	c
Wash'ton	16	61	s
Wel'ngton	16	61	X
Zurich	*22*	*72*	*s*

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: *high C will drift south with little change, high N will move northeast; low O will move east with little change as low P moves east and deepens*

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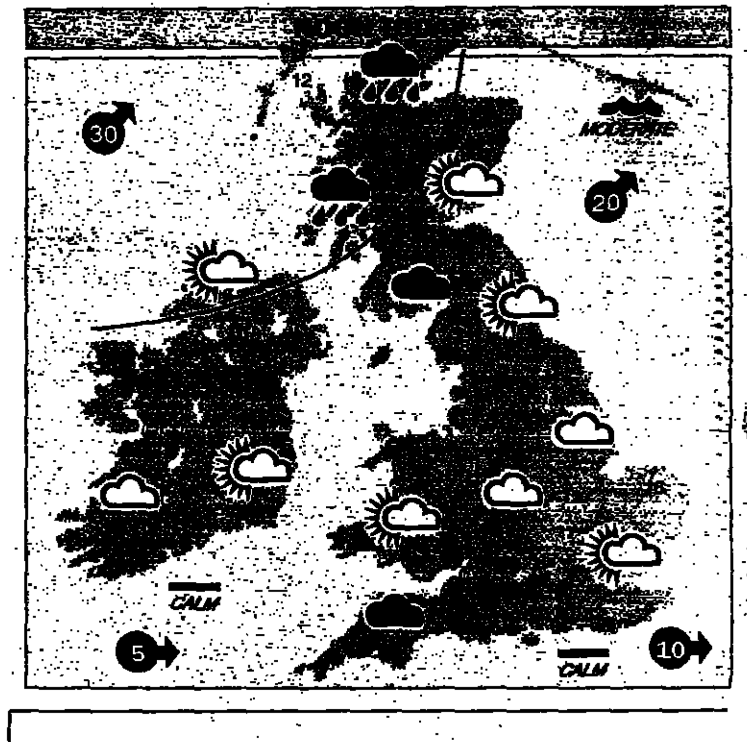

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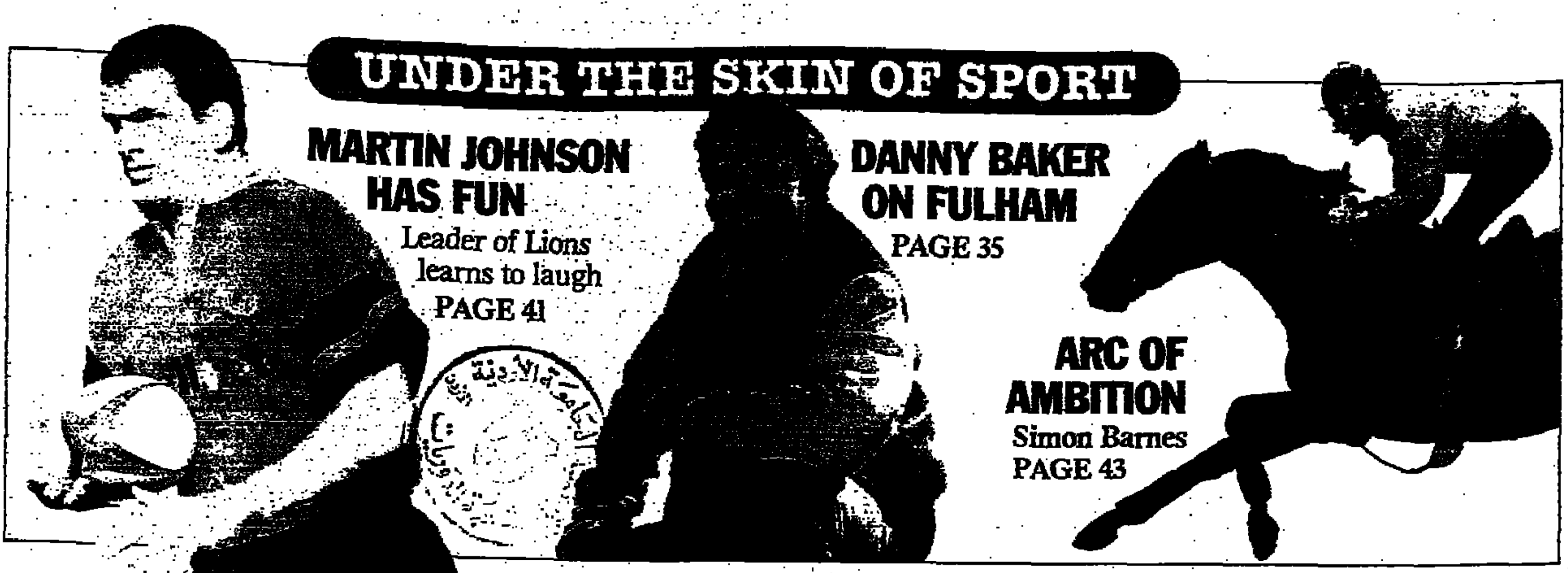
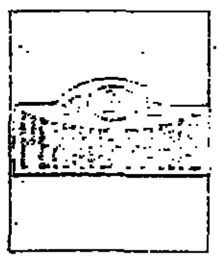

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

MARTIN JOHNSON HAS FUN
Leader of Lions learns to laugh
PAGE 41

DANNY BAKER ON FULHAM
PAGE 35

ARC OF AMBITION
Simon Barnes
PAGE 43

WEEKEND MONEY
Buying a house for your children's college years
PAGES 51–64



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THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT

OCTOBER 4 1997

ARSENAL CAPTAIN DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Adams, so often a towering figure for club and country, is hoping to rise from the disappointment of Arsenal's Uefa Cup exit to lead England to World Cup qualification in Rome. Photograph: Mark Leech

Adams turns to friends, Rome and countrymen

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TONY ADAMS, the man likely to lead England into their World Cup qualifying showdown with Italy in Rome next Saturday, fired the first shot in what is sure to be a long week of attrition yesterday when he suggested that his growing familiarity with Italian players in the FA Carling Premiership had bred a hint of contempt.

Adams, speaking at the Arsenal training headquarters near St Albans as the North London side prepared to defend their lead at the top of the table against Barnsley at Highbury this afternoon, played down the morale-boosting effect that Manchester United's European Cup Champions' League victory over Juventus on Wednesday night might have for the national side.

Then, however, the player who is likely to anchor the England defence as Italy go in search of the win they need, the figure who has become a byword for an uplifting spirit of determination and bravery, insisted that there had *already been a subtle shift in English* perceptions of the merits of Italian players — and vice-versa.

"I think it has really helped us that they have come over to *this* country," he said, "because we had tended to put them on pedestals until then. Now, we are working with them day in and day out and you maybe realise that they are *not* as special. Some of them are, but they are individuals just like us. We have got a lot of good players in England and we have got people whose talent is blossoming. It is just a matter of whether we can perform in the 90 minutes that matters.

"We have always had the passion in this country and there is no country in the world that is better in that respect, but what was given us by Terry Venables was the knowledge to go with it. Glenn Hoddle has brought his own bits and pieces in and things are different for us now. You just need to ask someone like Dennis Bergkamp. Other countries always thought we were very strong but very *stupid*, but now we have got the brains as well as the brawn."

Adams, who missed the first six games of the domestic season through injury and also had to sit out England's recent victory over Moldova at Wembley, will compete with Paul Ince for the captaincy in Rome, but, if nothing else, his record when he has been in charge is likely to *swing Hoddle's decision* his way.

"Whatever will be, will be," Adams said. "I have captained the side ten times and I have enjoyed it tremendously every time. I have been a very proud man on each occasion. If it happens again, that will be great as well. I have never lost as captain, either, because I don't count a loss to Germany on penalties. That goes down as a draw to me."

The Arsenal skipper, who has been capped 47 times by England, was in laconic mood yesterday, repeating some questions slowly after they were asked, shaking his head and smiling ruefully at others. One inquiry about whether he was back to *his best after his injuries* provoked a particularly cutting response.

"In another ten years, I might be a half-decent player," *he said.* "I happen to think that my first game back, I played pretty well. I work hard every game and I do my best every game, so hopefully my next game will be my best."

Most of what Adams said, though, augered well for England's prospects in Italy. He said that his age and the changes brought about by his struggle against alcoholism had altered his approach to the game and made him savour every match, every appearance, for both club and country.

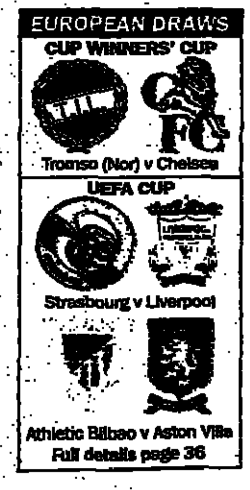
"You get the realisation that you are not going to have this forever," he said. "There is a certain amount of fear attached to that, but you either go and hang your boots up or you relish every game. I am going to grasp the moment and keep going for as long as I can.

"Maybe there will be an *added* determination in all of us before the Italy game, but mainly there will just be the normal anxieties of wanting to do well for your country. That is all it *will* be and people *will* prepare for it in their different ways. People have talked about us going there for a draw, but I have always played to win. If you do that, you might get a draw anyway.

"We have got *Barnsley* tomorrow and I am really looking forward to it. People might think we will be downcast after going out of the Uefa Cup this week, but it only affected me in the *same way losing to Wrexham in the FA* Cup a few years ago affected me.

"Other people made a big deal of it, but I was walking around and saying: 'If we get knocked out, it might as well be *in the first round.' The worst feeling* was losing to Tottenham in the FA Cup semi-final when we had come so far and put so much effort in and it was still for nothing."

Adams has little intention of playing for nothing next Saturday. His commitment will be total. "I used to take the softer options," he said. "I don't do that any more."



EUROPEAN DRAWS
CUP WINNERS' CUP
Tromso (Nor) v Chelsea
UEFA CUP
Strasbourg v Liverpool
Athletic Bilbao v Aston Villa
Full details page 36

Ambitious Le Saux, page 37
Weekend guide, page 38
Steve McManaman, page 39

Giggs provides therapy for the pain from Spain

LYNNE TRUSS

"Come round and view my collection of Ryder Cup 1997 souvenirs!" I urged various *unimpressed* friends *this* week. "I've got one of those little plastic European flags you saw waved on the telly." But it was a thankless *business: these confused* amnesiacs were already immersed in the football.

No, it's a weird fact about following sport that while it's respectable (and *in fact* non-negotiable) that you remember scores, details and statistics until the day you die, your emotional *attachment to an event is* supposed to be severed almost at once.

Thus, no sooner had the owner of Valderrama sent *out seven maids with seven* mops to clear up the muck and bullets on the 18th green than the words "Ryder Cup" belonged not to the high-octane *event of the past* week but to the next meeting in 1999. The words "Hang on a minute" cut no ice here, I found.

Blimey, I haven't figured out how many days it is until Christmas yet, but I already know that there are 725 until the next Ryder Cup. Two years *minus* a week until Brookline, Massachusetts. Now is that sad, or what?

I began to understand this week how those astronauts feel when their wives get impatient with them. "So you saw *the* earth from space and it looked like a basketball. That doesn't mean you can't de-flea the cat."

True, by Tuesday night I was watching the footie on television again, but I felt sort of glum and distant from it and would occasionally, *defiantly, wave my little* Ryder Cup flag, which was *now (I noticed sadly) bent in* the middle.

It seemed so unfair. These big sporting events hijack your emotions, that's their *entire intent, but then they* dump you afterwards. You wake up sprawled on a little pile of sand with nobody in sight. Is there a recovery room? Is there counselling? Is there nellie. God help me if I ever go to the Olympics.

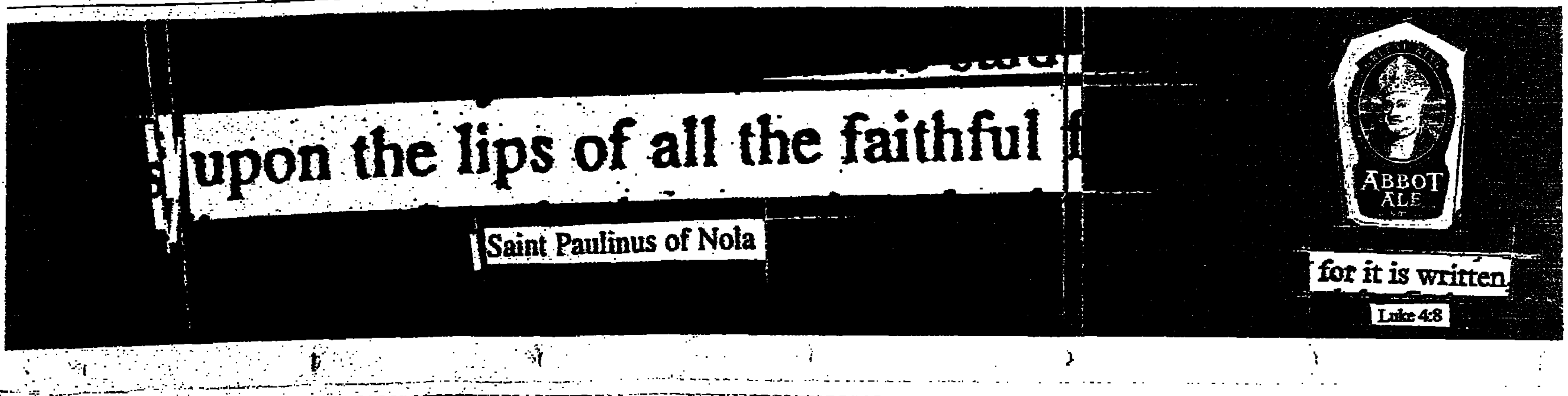
Obviously the cure for sport is *more* sport. Proper, grown-up sports writers know this very well. Discarding their little flags on Sunday night (if they ever had them), they headed at once for new assignments and *directed their attention* firmly on the present.

As therapy, this makes the same good sense as asking an accident victim "What *day is it?*" and "*What's the* name of the Prime Minister?" and besides, goes straight to the heart of sport. Sport exists in a continuous *present, which is why it's* better than any other form of entertainment and why people get addicted to it. It has no script. It *happens.*

And the cure worked for me, too, in the end. Ryan Giggs's ninetieth-minute goal against Juventus at Old Trafford on Wednesday *night did the trick, putting* an end to my Valderrama Dreamin', once and for all.

"Look at that!" I yelled, pointing at the telly. "What a *fantastic goal! And hang on,* we're going to Rome next week!" It was a fantastic goal indeed. Giggs appeared from nowhere, at top speed, on a *diagonal line* and suddenly everything was now, now, now!

I had been dwelling on a famous victory for *three days* and felt ashamed of my self-indulgence. By God, it was good to be back.


upon the lips of all the faithful
Saint Paulinus of Nola
ABBOT ALE
for it is written
Luke 4:8

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Inspirational Ryder Cup captain remains on course for solo successes

Ballesteros plans greatest escape from the rough

JOHN HOPKINS

follows Spanish steps towards a lost world

The conventional wisdom is that Severiano Ballesteros is finished. Apparently, the most thrilling golfer Europe has produced this century is washed up, a husk of his former self. His yearning to play in three more Ryder Cups is wishful thinking because his golf is not good enough, or so it seems. If he has a future in the Ryder Cup it is as a captain, not a player.

Hang on a minute! Is there room for another opinion? It is true that Ballesteros presently lies 100th in the order of merit, with winnings of a measly £15,600 all year. It is also true *that he is lower than he has* ever been in the world rankings — No 292. He has failed to win a point for the past year.

In Ireland, though, back in August, Ballesteros appeared to have shed some of the cares that have haunted him for more than a year. Last month, in Paris, he produced a stroke of genius that was shown on television around the world. He might have missed 14 cuts in events in Europe this year, but he has made the past two. On the first two days of the German Masters this week, there were moments *when that glorious swing*, so rhythmic and balanced, seemed as good as ever.

The golfer who has lost his nerve usually discovers the truth on and around the greens. In golf, it is not the legs that go but the nerves, the body's internal traffic lights that give the go-ahead to the soft and gentle movements that a golfer must attempt on and around the putting surface.

Yet it is here, again and again, that Ballesteros demonstrates that his nerves are as strong as ever. His short game remains magical. His putting stroke is not short and jerky as it would be if he was suffering — or even beginning to suffer — from the yips. On Thursday, he played a deft chip from *the back of the 18th green and* then holed a short putt — and this while he was furious with a tournament official who warned him about slow play. Ten minutes after he had finished his round, his hands were still shaking so much he had difficulty in lighting a cigarette.

There is an echo from the past in this doom-mongering about a famous player. In 1986, a journalist assessing Jack Nicklaus's chances in the Masters concluded that one of the game's greatest golfers was finished. Barbara Nicklaus saw the story, tore it out and stuck it to the door of the fridge in their rented house. That Sunday, her husband, with their oldest son by his *side, won the Masters for the* sixth time.

"With Seve, it is a question of desire," Bernhard Langer said. "He still has his short game. He is a brilliant bunker player, his chipping is fantastic, his putting wonderful. He has to sort out his technique because that must be what is causing him to hit the ball *sideways all the time. He is not* someone who buckles under pressure. He needs to trust his swing and start believing in himself again."

> 'I am playing better, believe me. I know'

Ballesteros knows this better than anyone. He may be an optimist, but he is also a realist. "I need to focus more on my game," he said. "I am playing better, believe me. I know. I need to keep working. If I start to play better regularly, I will regain my desire." Yesterday, while his throat was thick with cold, he talked enthusiastically about competing in in four-ball event in Bordeaux next week, in which *his partner will be José María* Olazábal, with whom he won the event two years ago.

Golf is one of the few ball *games at which middle-aged* competitors are not necessarily at a disadvantage. Tournaments can be won by men in their forties — and often are. Nicklaus won the US Open, PGA and Masters after he was 40. Sam Snead was 41 when he won his third Masters. Ben Hogan was 42 when he tied for the 1955 US Open and 47 when he nearly won the 1960 US Open.

Ballesteros was 40 last April. It is too *much to expect that he* can become a regular contender in major championships, but if ever a course was made for him, even in his forties, it is Augusta National. He has it in him to contend there once more. He can certainly win in Europe again, though to do so this year, as he has said he hopes he can, is probably too ambitious.

Write off Ballesteros off at your peril. He has spent a *lifetime defying the odds, do*ing so most recently at Valderrama last Sunday, when he captained Europe to victory in the Ryder Cup. There is no reason why he cannot do it again. He will surely captain the Ryder Cup team again, but I believe he will also compete in it again.

ALLSPORT

Ballesteros has shown glimpses of his brilliance at the German Masters this week

Tireless Langer strides on

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MOTZEN

WHAT did we say about Bernhard Langer always winning in Germany? He has nine victories in European tour events in Germany to his credit so far and, after a 69 yesterday gave him a one-stroke lead over Thomas Gogele and José Maria Olazábal after 36 holes, he is in a good position to make the Linde German Masters his tenth. Gogele had the lowest *round of the day, a 65.*

Langer, who is seven under par, is a byword for mental strength. It does not matter that he is 40: he is accepted as the strongest golfer in Europe.

"Mentally, he is huge," Colin Montgomerie, who had a 68 to be five under par, said after playing with Langer. "He played fantastic golf today. He is so strong mentally. I am physically and mentally whacked, but if I feel tired, I just have to look at Bernhard and see how he behaves. Every shot means so much to him. Nobody, nobody, nobody works as hard as Langer on a golf course."

It looked as though Langer would finish nine under par, having shot six birdies coming to the last, but on his last hole, the 9th, which is just over 300 yards, he took a six (Thomas *Bjorn and Olazábal also* dropped strokes here, hitting their second shots into the water that fronts the green). Langer's drive ran into a sandy divot from which his request for relief was denied. His 90-yard pitch plopped into the water. Then he pitched weakly and two-putted.

Meanwhile, Montgomerie, who is closing in on a record *fifth successive order of merit* title, had driven into a bush and had to take a drop out under penalty. He then hit an approach of length and accuracy reminiscent of Nick Faldo's against Curtis Strange in the Ryder Cup in 1995 — 90 yards to within a few feet — and sank the putt. From possibly losing one stroke to Langer when his ball roll into that bush, Montgomerie actually picked up two strokes.

It was another overcast, windy and showery day; another tiring day for golf, in other words. Of the Europe *Ryder Cup men, Bjorn,* Montgomerie and Per Ulrik Johansson are among a group of players two strokes behind Langer. Olazábal has suggested he is so tired he may withdraw from captaining Spain in the Alfred Dunhill Cup the week after next.

AGF receive their reward

FROM MEL WEBB
IN STRAFFAN, IRELAND

LIKE all great golf courses, the K Club, a candidate for the 2005 Ryder Cup, is a severe test that will exact an awful punishment if it is played badly. But, like all great courses, it is also fair. Good golf here gets its reward and the winning team in the Republic of Ireland regional final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge *yesterday* were properly recompensed with a handsome victory.

AGF Irish Life Holdings won the event with 83 Stableford points, seven ahead of the Bank of Ireland and eight in front of McSharry Bros Berco, who tied with JLS Unisys but took third prize after a countback of the last nine holes.

THE TIMES MeesPierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

The AGF team, composed of two single-figure players and two in the high teens, did the sensible thing and paired Aidan Hanratty, *who plays* off 17, with Gerry O'Loughlin (9) and John Carey (15) with Len Kelly (8). O'Loughlin and Kelly duly did their stuff, scoring 38 and 36 respectively off their own balls, but their partners made a useful contribution to the winning score.

Hanratty was convinced it was not going to be their day when he made unscheduled visits to three bunkers on the 1st — *one off the drive and one* on each side of the green. Fortunately, both he and his partner improved significantly after that.

The high spot of their round was O'Loughlin's birdie on the 12th, a seven-iron to eight feet and a single putt giving him three points. Kelly, who had played the course once before, had a welcome birdie on the 6th, when he recovered a short tee shot with a three-wood and a putt from ten feet. *He also birdied the par-five* 7th, his 16th, with a drive and a four-iron over water followed by two putts for three points.

RESULTS: 83 points: AGF Irish Life Holdings. 76: Bank of Ireland Laehms 75: McSharry Bros Berco Ireland, JLS-Unisys (Ireland) 73: MMI Stockbrokers Ltd; Rhyno *Mills 72: McCormack Dental Ltd* 71: Parc Group Ltd; Tatlers Hotel. 70: ANS plc; McStay & Co 69: Electrolux Group (Ireland) Ltd; Department of Economic Development. 68: Masterlink Transport Group. 67: Fibernet Group plc 65: Leonische *Ireland Ltd 64: O'Mahoney Farrelly Solicitors*; Carlow Technical College; ICL South

TENNIS

Double joy as British pair set sights on final clash

BY JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE British pennant will feature prominently in Switzerland today when Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman *compete in separate* semi-finals for the right to meet in the final of the ATP tour event in Basle tomorrow.

Faced with Swedish opponents, the two Britons progressed in contrasting styles yesterday. Rusedski edged out Thomas Enqvist, seeded No 6, in three sets and will play Petr Korda in the penultimate round. Henman came through more emphatically against a subdued Magnus Norman for the loss of just five games. He faces Mark Philippoussis or Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the No 1 seed, who were due to meet last night.

By any standards, this was a tough assignment for Rusedski. Enqvist is ranked just five *places below him* at No 15 in the world, but it is extraordinary how Rusedski continues to rise above a punishing schedule. This was his sixth successive quarter-final appearance, while Enqvist, who missed the US Open with influenza, came into the match hungry for matchplay. Rusedski's formidable service sustained him against an opponent whose timing off the ground was exemplary.

Rusedski fended off two break points in the opening game to take the first set to a tie-break, where Enqvist could not recover from a couple of loose volleys. The Swede raised his game in the second set, cracking Rusedski's service before playing a series of impenetrable service games of his own to level the match.

It looked ominous for Rusedski. With Enqvist successfully attacking the Briton's *backhand and reading* his drop-volleys with ease, the Swede certainly looked the stronger, but Rusedski can suddenly rise from the depths and he did on Enqvist's opening service game in the deciding set. By chipping and charging his opponent, Rusedski conjured two break points, claiming *the first with a rare, driven* backhand down the line for a 2-0 lead. In the next game, he redeemed two break points and his resolve notably stiffened. There would be no way back for Enqvist: Rusedski duly prevailed 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 after 1hr 42min.

This victory, which secured Rusedski a fourth consecutive semi-final appearance, means that he will move up in the world rankings when the revised list is released on *Monday. So, too, will* Henman, who broke Norman twice in each set for a comfortable win, 6-3, 6-2, in 69 minutes. Apart from a hiccup in his opening service game, Henman was in control throughout.

"I feel very confident the way I'm serving," he said. "If all aspects of my game continue to go well, I think I'll be difficult to beat this week."

IN BRIEF

Jansher to miss title defence for personal reasons

JANSHER KHAN, eight times the world squash champion and the undisputed world No 1, has declined to defend his title at the World Open championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next month for "personal reasons" (Colin McQuillan writes).

His withdrawal will be a huge disappointment for the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia, for whom this championship is to be a rehearsal for the entry of squash *to the Commonwealth Games* in Kuala Lumpur next year. Jansher has also said that he will not lead the Pakistan squad in the world team championship, which follows the individual world open.

Obree defends

Cycling: Graeme Obree, twice the world pursuit champion, will defend his title in the 26-mile Tour of the Trossachs rather than compete in England this weekend. He holds the event record of 1hr 0min 45sec for the course that includes the 1,100-foot climb of *Duke's Pass.*

Stuart Dangerfield and Jon Clay head an elite entry for the Merseyside Wheelers' 28-mile time-trial through the Delamere Forest. Rob Hayles is defending his title.

Love blossoms

Golf: Davis Love III bounced *back from the disappointment* of being the only player not to score a point in the Ryder Cup last weekend by making a flying start to the Buick Challenge, at Pine Mountain, Georgia. The US PGA champion birdied four of the first seven holes on his way to a five-under-par 67, one shot behind the leader, Mike Brisky.

Silk Cut fifth

Sailing: *Innovation Kvaerner* continued to lead by 30 miles from *Merit Cup* on the thirteenth day of the Whitbread Round the World Race yesterday. *Silk Cut*, the British entry, remained in fifth place, more than 150 miles behind the leader as the yachts headed towards the Doldrums.

Evans tunes up

Athletics: Paul Evans, winner of the Chicago Marathon 12 months ago, will use the Great South Run in Portsmouth tomorrow as a final tune-up before bidding to retain his title. Evans faces a strong field that includes Gary Staines, bidding for a fourth title, and Chris Kelong, of Kenya. Liz McColgan and Marian Sutton will compete in the women's race.

Tufnell hearing

Cricket: Phil Tufnell, the Middlesex and England off spinner, will appear before an England and Wales Cricket Board disciplinary hearing on October 24 to explain his failure to supply a specimen during a random drug test at the county championship match against Essex at Chelmsford last month.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Play-offs: Seattle 3 Baltimore 9 (Baltimore leads best-of-five series 2-0); New York Yankees 5 Cleveland 7 (series tied at 1-1)

BASKETBALL

MEN'S EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: Olympiakos (Gr) 63 Limoges (Fr) 57; Real Madrid 66 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 76. Group B: Porto 79 Croatia Split 83; Treviso (It) 71 Turk Telecom (Tur) 60. Group C: Barcelona 71 Kinder Bologna (It) 84; Ulkerspor (Tur) 67 Pau Orthez (Fr) 64. Group D: Alba Berlin 74 Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 73; Paris Saint-Germain-Racing 66 Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) 69

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 97 Sheffield Sharks

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Karachi (final day of three): South Africans 306 (S M Pollock 74 not out, J H Kallis 52; Ali Husain Rizvi 5-89) and 254-8 dec (G Kirsten 61; Husain Rizvi 6-57). Pakistan Cricket Board XI 132 (Ali Naqvi 62; P L Symcox 4-25) and 237-4 (Ali Naqvi 113, Raza Qayyum 83 not out). Match drawn

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Asian qualifying zone: Final round: Group A: China 1 Saudi Arabia 0 (in Dalian); Iran 3 Qatar 0 (in Tehran)

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round, second leg: Kilmarnock 1 Nice (Fr) 1 (Nice win 4-2 on agg); Slovan Bratislava 0 Chelsea 2 (Chelsea win 4-0 on agg); VfB Stuttgart (Ger) 2 Vestmannaeyjar (Ice) 1 (Stuttgart win 5-2 on agg); Nacional Bucharest (Rom) 0 Kocaelispor (Tur) 1 (Kocaelispor win 3-0 on agg); Shakhtyor Donetsk (Ukr) 1 Boavista (Por) 1 (Shakhtyor win 4-3 on agg); Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 1 Germinal Ekeren (Bel) 1 (Germinal win 4-3 on agg); Lucerne (Switz) 0 Slavia Prague (Cz) 2 (Prague win 6-2 on agg); Sturm Graz (Austria) 3 Apoel Nicosia (Cyp) 0 (Sturm win 4-0 on agg); Vasas Budapest (Hun) 0 Real Betis (Sp) 2 (Betis win 4-0 on agg); Roda JC Kerkrade (Holl) 10 Hapoel Beer-Shova (Isr) 0 (Kerkrade win 14-1 on agg); Dinaburg Daugavpils (Lat) 2 AEK Athens (Gr) 4 (AEK win 9-2 on agg); Legia Warsaw (Pol) 1 Vicenza (It) 1 (Vicenza win 3-1 on agg); Tromso (Nor) 4 NK Zagreb (Cro) 2 (aet: 3-2 after 90min: Tromso win 6-5 on agg)

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk 2 Finn Harps 0

FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round: Eastbourne Town 0 Crawley 2; Yeovil 1 Cheltenham 1

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Newell's Old Boys 2 San Lorenzo 2; Huracan 0 Rosario Central 1

GOLF

MOTZENER SEE, Berlin: Linde German Masters: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: B Langer (Ger) 68, 69. 138: J M Olazabal (Sp) 69, 69; T Gogele (Ger) 73, 65. 139: C Montgomerie 71, 68; P-U Johansson (Swe) 72, 67; T Bjorn (Den) 71, 68; A Coltart 71, 68; P Sjoland (Swe) 71, 68; J Spence 71, 68. 140: P Walton 72, 68; S Torrance 71, 69; G Orr 69, 71; D Howell 68, 72; E Darcy 72, 68. 141: S Jones (US) 74, 67; P Baker 74, 67; A Binaghi (It) 70, 71; R Muntz (Holl) 72, 69; M Anglert (Swe) 72, 69; D Cooper 74, 67. 142: P McGinley 71, 71; D Clarke 73, 69; P Harrington 72, 70; D Carter 73, 69. 143: T Lehman (US) 73, 70; M Gates 68, 75; P Price 75, 68; W Riley (Aus) 75, 68. 144: P Mickelson (US) 73, 71; S Ballesteros (Sp) 74, 70; F Tarnaud (Fr) 72, 72; A Johnstone (Zim) 75, 69; D Smyth 77, 67; M Roe 78, 66. 145: S Struver (Ger) 74, 71; S Richardson 72, 73; P Haugsrud (Nor) 70, 75; M Mackenzie 73, 72; A Sherborne 75, 70; M Davis 76, 69; G Evans 77, 68; R Boxall 75, 70

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia: Buick Challenge: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 66: M Brisky. 67: D Ogrin; D Love III; G Hjertstedt (Swe); G Hallberg; B Chamblee; H Sutton. 68: T Byrum; S Skinner; A Doyle; S Pate; D Toms. 69: S Gump; W Mayfair; C Stadler; J Edwards; M Christie; B Fleisher; S Lowery; F Funk; P Goydos; D Berganio

IL PICCIOLO: Women's Italian Open: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: V van Ryckeghem (Bel) 72, 65. 141: P Gonzalez (Col) 70, 71; G Stewart 71, 70. 142: T Craik 69, 73; H Hopkins (Aus) 69, 73; H Alfredsson (Swe) 71, 71; L Mantz (SA) 75, 67. 143: S Mendiburu (Fr) 72, 71; S Head 71, 72. 144: F Pike (Aus) 74, 70; M Prete (It) 72, 72; M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 71, 73; K Lunn (Aus) 74, 70; T Fischer (Ger) 71, 73; S Melin (Swe) 71, 73.

KUTZTOWN, Pennsylvania: LPGA Betsy King Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 67: C Matthew (GB); S Croce (It). 68: T Barrett; L Lindley; T Hanson. 69: L Kean; P Johnson (GB); E Gibson. 70: C Pierce (GB); B King; C Johnson; J Inkster; D Eggeling; K Albers; A Sorenstam (Swe); M Morris; S Waugh (Aus); J Gallagher-Smith; W Doolan; A Dibos (Peru). Other British scores: 71: P Wright; S Maynor; K Marshall; H Dobson. 73: K Davies. 75: J Morley.

FRILFORD HEATH: British Senior Women's Open: Leading final scores: 231: T Wiesner (US) 74, 77, 80. 236: V Hassett (Ennis) 79, 81, 76. 237: D Williams (Can) 77, 81, 79. 241: E McCombe (Hockley) 80, 83, 78; R Farrow (St Neots) 77, 84, 80. 242: C Bailey (Tandridge) 82, 79, 81; I K Al Verchou (Swe) 80, 80, 82; P Williamson (Burnham Beeches) 82, 75, 85. 244: A Wilson (Haggs Castle) 87, 77, 80

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 6 Los Angeles 5

REAL TENNIS

FONTAINEBLEU: French Open: Final: C Bray (GB) bt F Filippelli (Aus) 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 1-6, 6-1

RUGBY LEAGUE

World club championship

Quarter-final

Auckland 62 Bradford 14

Auckland Warriors: Tries: Hoppe 2, Ridge 2, Ellis, Eru, Jones, Malam, Ngamu, A Swann, L Swann. Goals: Ridge 9. Bradford Bulls: Tries: Bradley, Evoku. Goals: McNamara 3. Att: 12,063

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: First leg (Southampton to Cape Town): Latest positions: 1, Innovation Kvaerner 4,602.7 miles to finish; 2, Merit Cup at 27.8 miles; 3, EF Language 77.2; 4, Chessie racing 139.3; 5, Silk Cut 143.1; 6, America's Challenge 282.2; 7, Toshiba 282.3; 8, Swedish Match 285.1; 9, Brunelsunergy 479.1; 10, EF Education 591.6.

SNOOKER

MOTHERWELL: Regal Masters: Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-2; N Bond (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-5.

SPEEDWAY

CRAVEN SHIELD: First round, first leg: Ipswich 50 King's Lynn 40
YORKSHIRE CUP: Sheffield 46 Hull 44.

TENNIS

BEIJING: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: J Courier (US) bt J Kroslak (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-3; K Carlsen (Den) bt A O'Brien (US) 7-5, 5-7, 7-6; T Johansson (Swe) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-2, 6-4; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt B Black (Zim) 6-4, 6-3.

PALERMO: Men's tournament: First round: M Filippini (Uru) bt C Ruud (Nor) 7-6, 6-7, 7-5; F Clavet (Sp) bt V Spadea (US) 6-3, 6-3; J Sanchez (Sp) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6-4, 6-4. Quarter-finals: A Corretja (Sp) bt Clavet 7-6, 6-2; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt A Portas (Sp) 7-5, 6-4

BASLE: Men's tournament: Second round: L Roux (Fr) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; P Korda (Cz) bt C Woodruff (US) 7-5, 6-4; T Henman (GB) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-1; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt I Heuberger (Switz) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; T Enqvist (Swe) bt J Tarango (US) 7-5, 7-5; M Norman (Swe) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-1, 6-4; G Rusedski (GB) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-3, 7-6; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Korda bt L Roux (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; Rusedski bt Enqvist 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; Henman bt Norman 6-3, 6-2.

SANTA CLARA, California: *Women's tournament:* First round: S Cacic (US) bt N Vaidyanathan (India) 6-4, 6-1; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt A Cocheteux (Fr) 7-6, 3-6, 6-4; T Snyder (US) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-0, 6-2; C Cristea (Rom) bt M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) 6-4, 6-1; A Kremer (Lux) bt N van Lottum (Fr) 7-6, 7-6; L Ghirardi-Rubbi (Fr) bt S-A Siddall (GB) 6-3, 4-6, 6-1; K Nagatsuka (Japan) bt L Lee (US) 6-1, 6-3; J Nejedly (Can) bt N Pratt (Aus) 6-2, 6-2; E Dominikovic (Aus) bt M Irvin (US) 6-2, 6-4; K Brandi (US) bt S Reeves (US) 6-3, 6-3; R McQuillan (Aus) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-4, 7-5. Second round: Grzybowska bt Dominikovic 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; N Miyagi (Japan) bt Snyder 6-4, 7-6; M Tu (US) bt J Lee (US) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; Cristea bt E Gagliardi (Switz) 6-4, 6-4; Nagatsuka bt S Smith (GB) 6-3, 6-1; Cacic bt Kremer (Lux) 6-3, 6-1; Brandi bt Ghirardi-Rubbi 6-4, 6-2; Nejedly bt McQuillan 6-7, 7-5, 6-0.

NOTTINGHAM: Satellite tournament: Men: Quarter-finals: D Sapsford (GB) bt N Watts (GB) 6-2, 6-2; A Foster (GB) bt M Zahirovic (Bela) 6-2, 6-4; A Popp (Ger) bt N Weal (GB) 6-2, 6-4; A Parmar (GB) bt L Milligan (GB) 7-5, 6-4. Women: Semi-finals: A Wainwright (GB) bt K Kamer (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; N Egorova (Russ) bt T Musgrave (Aus) 6-4, 6-2

THE TIMES
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RACING RESULTS

Newmarket

Going: good to firm

2.05 (1m 4f) 1, *Mons* (L Dettori, 3-1); 2, Memorise (7-2); 3, The Fly (10-11 fav). 4 ran. 1½l, sh hd. L Cumani. Tote: £3.50. DF: £4.30. CSF: £11.53.

2.35 (7f) 1, Al Muallim (A McGlone, 4-1 fav); 2, Madly Sharp (7-1); 3, Mr Sponge (16-1). 13 ran. 1½l, hd. J Payne. Tote: £4.90; £2.10, £2.50, £4.00. DF: £16.80. Trio: £141.50. CSF: £27.07. Tricast: £390.93.

3.05 (7f) 1, Haami (R Hills, 5-1); 2, Bintang *(7-2)*; 3, *Aix En Provence (33-1). Abreeze* 15-8 fav. 8 ran. 1¼l, 1¾l. J Dunlop. Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £1.40, £3.60. DF: £13.30. CSF: £20.75.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, Kawarra (T Sprake, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Siverani (5-1); 3, Fantail (10-1). Ihtiyati 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Desert Horizon. 3l, 1l. B Millman. Tote: £5.50; £1.60, £2.00, £2.20. DF: £13.20. Trio: £30.50. CSF: £17.55. Tricast: £132.60.

4.15 (6f) 1, Bowden Rose (D Sweeney, 14-1); 2, *Plaisir D'Amour (100-30 fav)*; 3, Almasi (11-2). 9 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. M Blanshard. Tote: £13.90; £2.60, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £33.80. Trio: £52.70. CSF: £54.66. Tricast: £267.99.

4.50 (1m) 1, *Strazo (R Cochrane, 6-4 fav; Thunderer's nap)*; 2, Midyan Call (6-1); 3, Great Child (6-1). 6 ran. NR: Change For A Buck. 2l, 4l. Lady Herries. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £3.40. DF: £10.20. CSF: £9.52.

Jackpot: £22,725.60 (0.1 winning tickets. Pool of £28,807.16 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £202.30. Quadpot: £27.50.

Lingfield Park

Going: firm

1.55 (5f) 1, Iris May (J Weaver, 3-1); 2, Missed The Cut (15-8); 3, Sacchetti (16-1). Braganza 7-4 fav. 6 ran. ½l, 1l. J Berry. Tote: £4.60; £1.70, £1.40. DF: £2.90. CSF: £8.82.

2.25 (6f) 1, Dernier Croise (M Tebbutt, 5-1); 2, Crouteer (9-1); 3, Impulsive Decision (8-1). Legal Lark 7-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Blue Shadow, Means Business, Opening Night. Nk, ½l. B Meehan. Tote: £5.80; £2.20, £2.40, £2.30. DF: £26.80. Trio: £48.80. CSF: £47.89.

2.55 (6f) 1, Daring Derek (O Peslier, 11-10 fav); 2, Jils (15-8); 3, Hever Golf Ranger (25-1). 14 ran. NR: Dangerus Precedent. 2l, 1¾l. D Loder. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £1.30, £3.70. DF: £2.10. Trio: £43.40. CSF: £2.95.

3.30 (7f) 1, Lauren's Lad (N Adams, 9-1); 2, Up The Wall (12-1); 3, Mohawk (12-1); 4, Miss Mullett (25-1). Bahamian Melody 8-11 fav. 16 ran. NR: Ocean Line, Saxon Victory. 3½l, ¾l. G Lewis. Tote: £11.50; £1.70, £3.60, £3.30, £3.90. DF: £55.40. Trio: £514.30. CSF: £113.68. Tricast: £800.58.

4.00 (7f) 1, Bold Tina (C Lowther, 2-1 fav); 2, Churchill's Shadow (12-1); 3, Loxley's Girl (25-1). 15 ran. NR: Homestead. 1l, 2l. R Hannon. Tote: £3.10; £1.30, £4.80, £20.90. DF: £88.50. Trio: £1,472.20. CSF: £29.42. Tricast: £496.46.

4.35 (1m 6f) 1, Crystal Hills (G Hind, 4-1); 2, Spartan Heartbeat (1-2 fav); 3, Bawara (8-1). 8 ran. NR: Gaily Grecian. 1¾l, 4l. J Gosden. Tote: £5.70; £1.10, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £1.80. Trio: £5.70. CSF: £5.85.

5.10 *(1m 3f 106yd)* 1, *Random Kindness* (Mr L Jefford, 12-1); 2, Civil Liberty (15-8 fav); 3, Laurel Seeker (15-2). 11 ran. NR: Sarum. ¾l, 1l. R Ingram. Tote: £14.80; £3.00, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £17.90. Trio: £39.90. CSF: £31.96. Tote

Placepot: £120.80. Quadpot: £19.80.

Hexham

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Bernera (E Husband, 8-1); 2, Pentland Squire (1-8 fav); 3, Another Picea (25-1). 4 ran. NR: Goldliner Alfie, Toshiba Talk. Sh hd, 27l. J Mackie. Tote: £44.30. DF: £2.20. CSF: £9.70.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, Flying North (P Niven, 1-2 fav); 2, Jumbo's Dream (50-1); 3, Squandamania (50-1). 6 ran. 23l, 5l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.90. DF: £8.20. CSF: £22.80.

3.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Salem Beach (M Moloney, 16-1); 2, Marble Man (7-2); 3, All Clear (7-1). Another Red 3-1 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, ¾l. M Todhunter. Tote: £20.50; £3.30, £1.40, £1.20. DF: £29.00. CSF: £86.72. Tricast: £403.03.

3.50 (3m hdle) 1, Nonios (N Hannity, 5-6 fav); 2, Western Venture (11-1); 3, Meadowleck (25-1). 10 ran. 4l, 14l. G Moore. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £2.20, £3.30. DF: £21.10. Trio: £113.00. CSF: £12.60. No bid.

4.25 (3m 1f ch) 1, Tighter Budget (A Dobbin, 85-40 fav); 2, Jonaem (20-1); 3, Datuoman (16-1). 9 ran. NR: Seeking Gold. 2½l, 28l. Mrs D Sayer. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £6.50, £2.00. DF: £59.30. Trio: £229.40. CSF: £37.45. Tricast: £508.40.

5.00 (3m hdle) 1, Gale Ahead (B Storey, 5-6 fav); 2, Arctic Fox (8-1); 3, Castle Red (5-1). 7 ran. 5l, 13l. G Moore. Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £3.30. DF: £6.20. CSF: £8.58.

5.30 (2m flat) 1, Chaparro Amargoso (M H Naughton, 6-1); 2, Excursion (10-1); 3, Bon Doula (11-4). Curtain Shot 6-4 fav. 7 ran. 6l, ¾l. B Ellison. Tote: £5.70; £2.00, £4.30. DF: £41.60. CSF: £59.29.

Placepot: £1,516.80. Quadpot: £21.80.

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هكذا من الإصل

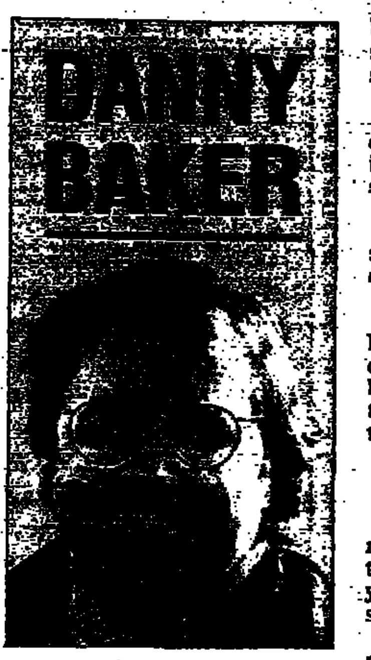
O wouldn't it be luvverly to be top of the league

Now that the shock is over, has anybody else thought about getting up some kind of petition to have Fulham *run out of* town on a rail? If I were a Fulham supporter — forgive me for two minutes while I laugh myself silly at that phrase — if I were a Fulham supporter — no, it's no good, I'll have to put it another way — if it happened to my club, I would get one of those big, flat mop-cum-brooms that Mammy Twoshoes uses in *Tom & Jerry* cartoons and run up and down the corridors of the place thwacking backsides until they all buggered off. Shooo! Go 'way! Because exciting though the initial prospect must be, there is absolutely no getting away from the fact that your team *is being* used as some kind of immense petrie dish. A huge social experiment.

Shamefully, in all the reports I've seen Fulham supporters are acting like the dazed, grateful Volk of the Sudetenland weeping into the newsreel cameras and pitching up at the club gates with offerings of salt and bread. "At last our glorious past will live again!" Yeah, right. You're the sleeping Kings Across The Water and Keggy, Butch and Mr Al Fayed are coming to your rescue out of their deep desire to see football tradition resurrected and past wrongs righted. Camelot! Singing:

The rain must never fall till after sundown

July & August cannot be too hot,
And there's a legal limit to the snow here . . . At Craven Cott.



Although maybe I've got the wrong musical entirely. Surely the only explanation for what's happening at Fulham can be found in *My Fair Lady*. Is it entirely beyond belief that, one long night, upstairs after a PFA dinner, Rex Harrison (Keggy) turned to Wilfred Hyde White (Mr Al Fayed) and, drawing long upon his fine Havana whilst swirling a balloon of the five-star, said . . .

"Sir, what you say about the culling of all but three clubs interests me greatly but only as a sporting man."

"I'm not with you, sir."

"Well, sir, I don't doubt your sincerity about the game and I'm damn certain about y'fortune!"

(They laugh.)

"But money and sincerity I've had up to here. Honours be damned. If you're to tempt me back into the game . . . you'll need to tickle m'interest a little further than that . . ."

"A wager?"

"A wager sir."

"How so?"

"I bet you, sir, that I can take the most common street whore from the base divisions and within three years . . . pass her off in polite society . . . as a born-lady, sir."

"Damn it, Keegle, you fascinate me strangely! You, sir, have you a bet!"

(They shake. Keggy turns to the waiting footman and waves a bundle of notes.)

"You! Get down to lower leagues and get me a whore! The more down on her luck the better. Oh and get one y'self while yer about it! Eh . . . what!!"

(Everyone laughs.)

To be continued.

If Murray Walker can keep it up . . .

Here's something. Why does a horse race need three commentators? If, after 90 seconds of football, Barry Davies handed you over to John Motson, who took you up to five minutes before giving the mike to Alan Parry, we might overlook it. Yet Murray Walker, 83, *seems to be able to* keep a vocal erection for the 16 hours that a grand prix lasts, so why not Graham Goode? On ITV, over six furlongs, commentators come and go like junkies to a Moss Side crack house. But why?

The answer may lie in some inside information I was given a while back while on the radio. I remember a balding old engineer one night letting it *slip* that the continuous hoof *beats* one hears on a television horse race are actually all taken from a huge stock FX tape and simply chopped to fit. After all, he reasoned, how could you hear those ever-present "bddllldmms bddllldmms" from *the camera position when, often,* there's no remote broadcast truck tracking the action as it hurtles away. When I asked this trusty old media lifer *why* television companies would bother dubbing hoofbeats on to races, he said viewers found the sight of horses running around the far side of the track in silence "un-nerving".

We see horses, we expect to hear horses. After all, nobody is still waiting for The Talkies to blow over. Before clamming up on the subject entirely — indeed, he left the company suddenly less than 72 hours after — he hinted darkly that, quite often, things go awry.

And so I suspect television cover*age of The Sport Of Kings is padded* out with all kinds of overblown personalities and superfluous experts so we don't notice that the telltale thumps of Arkle's legs aren't entirely rhyming with Arkle's motion. Indeed, when it comes to the *murky* world of miming, Goodwood is showing a clean pair of heels to *The Chart Show*. Pun intended.

That filthy start to the season again

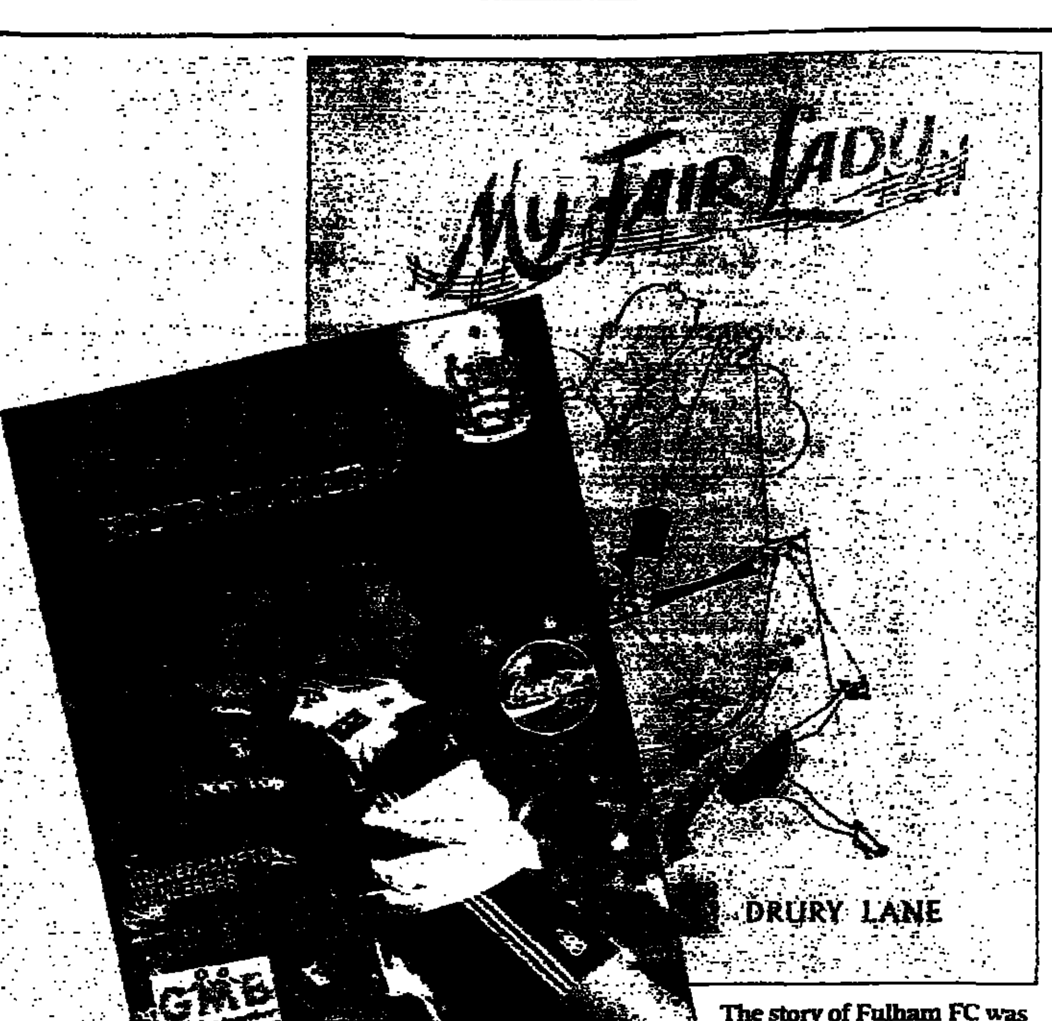
DURING a thoughtless piece of commentary in the Liverpool-Celtic game, John "I Always Get It Wrong. Always" Motson looked across to the Celtic fans and opined that "... it's great to hear that the downpour hasn't dampened the spirits of these terrific fans ..." when as anyone who follows the game through love and not a living might've pointed out: the Celtic fans were singing BECAUSE of the downpour.

Nobody, but nobody I know *has any time at all for the insipid* wimpy first eight weeks of a football season. *They are a drag*. Naturally, newspapers, television and radio thunder on about IT being *back* because, bless them, they take their images of football supporters from *Loaded* magazine or something, but for actual terrace-dwellers *it* simply signals a dutiful hauling along of your bones to a series of bloodless, fuzzy, phoney-war try-outs that simply can't be taken seriously.

Then, slowly, the swing of the thing starts to return. The odd glance at a league table, you recognise the new bloke without checking the programme, there's the first full turnout of all in your immediate circle.

Suddenly, you find yourself at an away game. A night game at that. *Looking* honestly on to the pitch for the first time this term, you realise there is no way on earth you are going to win this one. Or perhaps ever again. Everyone around you knows this. But, as usual, the stupid opposition don't. That's *when the temperature drops* and, right on cue, down comes the rain. It's like you never left. The season proper has begun and we heard the first singing worth the name on Wednesday.

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.



The story of Fulham FC was once a successful musical

I AM writing this ten minutes before Liverpool v Celtic. I predict Liverpool 4 Celtic 1. (Pause.) Nope, miles away.

Escapist appeal of Millwall

I HOPE you will forgive me if, in this young column, I use the dread phrase "a recent survey shows" but this is rather a good one. A prisoner at Wandsworth has polled all the inmates on his wing as to who they would support if the walls suddenly turned to crispbread and they might stroll to any ground in the land. It triumphantly reveals that a whopping 51 per cent spend their solitary hours imagining the exciting cut and thrust to be viewed for just a few pounds at The New Den. Chelsea came second with 18 per cent, with the rest of London's clubs scrabbling around for what light they can. He counters any South London bias that might be expected from such a local gaol by recalling "the Lions came in second" at a "nick near Glasgow".

This is all very encouraging. When New Labour's policies really kick in and through education, social reform and a fairer judiciary we find our prisons as empty as a Paul Ince oath of loyalty, a seat at Millwall will become as prized as those at Old Trafford or St James' Park. I believe a similar phenomenon was witnessed at Paris Saint-Germain less than 48 hours after the storming of the Bastille. Who's laughing now about my £50,000 worth of 20p shares?

Blackburn v Coventry . . . who allowed it to go on?

THERE are too many games on television. I sat and watched Blackburn v Coventry on Monday night and that can't be a good thing. Because it's football — and come on! *everybody* loves football these days — football matches are perceived as being different from *Neighbours* and *Wheel Of Fortune*, but they're not. I couldn't care less if both Blackburn and Coventry went the way of quill pens and loose leaf tea and yet there I was sitting on the sofa goggle-eyed like a big piece of Tennessee trailer trash during QVC's "Virtually Free" night. Hooked.

When the final whistle went on this 0-0 fiasco, I felt the shame of a no-life shabby loser who has kept pumping his pound coins into the slot of the porn booth only to run out of money before the big climax. What was I doing here? The accepted jabbering within our slack-jawed "lads" culture is that any football is good football, but that's plainly posturing nonsense. (It may come as a shock to some of football's more modern or well-heeled supporters, but I am no more interested in your side than you are in mine.)

Blackburn v Coventry is a dirty lie and unless we all want to become bloated drones within a phenomenon that we are beginning to think is in the gift of a rival industry ... it must be stamped out. AND while we're at it, can we have a moratorium on the snivelling phrase: "Why should we have to PAY to see our football?"

Well: a) *There was never, ever* another era when football was free and on television a lot.

And b) you always *have* had to pay for your football. They were called turnstiles.

I am writing this ten minutes before Man Utd v Juventus. I predict Man Utd will win 3-1. (Pause.) Hey, not bad!

Lewis can gloat over Golota if he negates the nagging jab

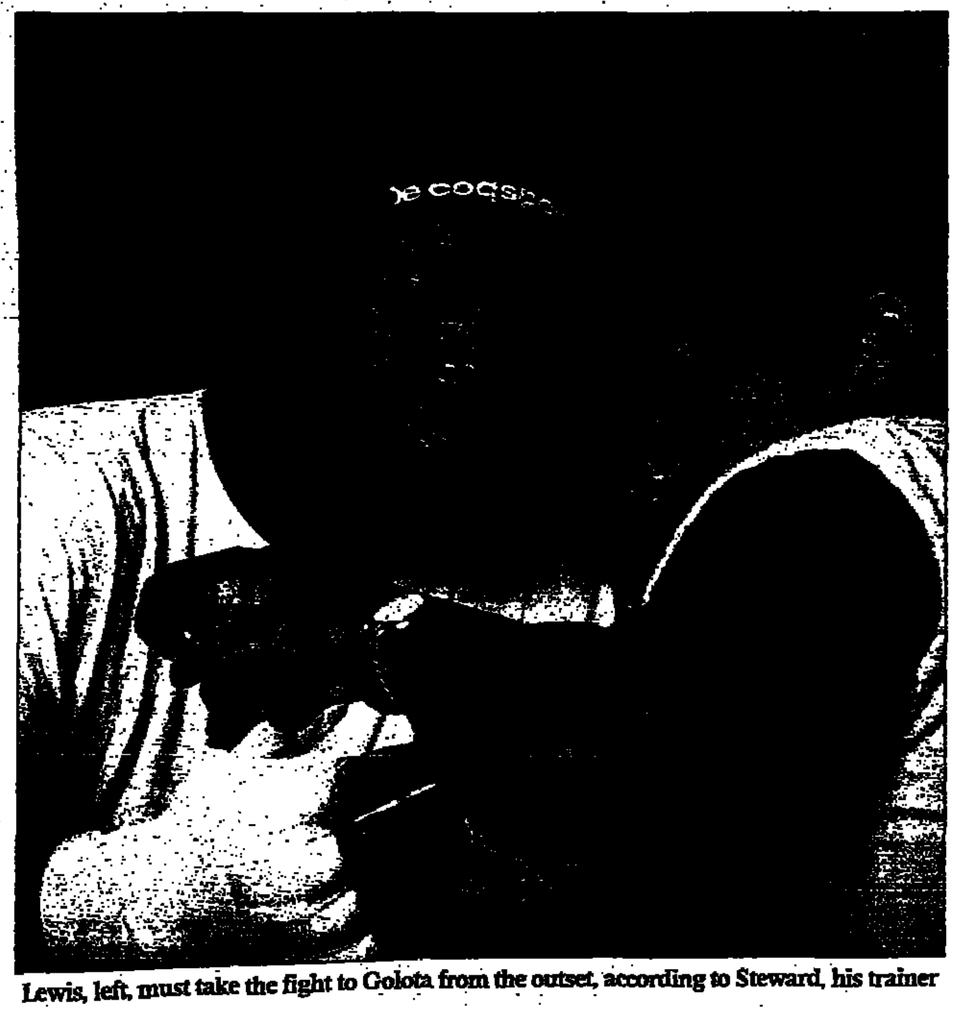
FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTIC CITY

LENNOX LEWIS is one of the most gifted boxers in the world, but, in 32 contests over eight years of campaigning, there have been only mere glimpses of his skills, like little explosions of light in the dark. Just twice has he satisfied his supporters — when he stopped Gary Mason in six rounds in 1991 and when he banished Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in two a year later.

Tonight, we could see the real Lewis when he defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship against Andrew Golota, of Poland, although Lewis will have to produce his best to survive against a tough and aggressive Pole.

Frank Maloney, Lewis's *manager*, believes his man is so much superior to the challenger that there is "more chance of a Jamaican becoming Pope than a Pole becoming a world heavyweight champion", but Golota's performance against Riddick Bowe warns of a hard fight. Even Emanuel Steward, Lewis's trainer, said that if Lewis does not commit himself to a fight, he could be in trouble. Steward is hoping that the hard sparring Lewis has had at his camp in Big Bear, California will help him *overcome* the fear of running into a big punch in the early stages of the contest, as he did against Oliver McCall in 1994 when he lost his title. Once he is forced to commit himself, he should go to work.

"Lennox is the best heavyweight out there, but it doesn't mean anything if they don't go out and perform," Steward said. "As you know, I also train Oscar de la Hoya, but brilliant though Oscar is, he hasn't got the talent of Lennox. But Oscar is successful because he has a burning desire to win; Lennox should also show that he can fight in a positive manner. If he stops being analytical and comes out and fights, no one can stay with him, but he has to come out right away and engage Golota."



Lewis, left, must take the fight to Golota from the outset, according to Steward, his trainer

Steward believes Golota's two contests against Bowe (when he beat up the former world champion, but lost both times on disqualification for low blows) give an inflated impression of the Pole. The Bowe that faced Golota in Madison Square Garden in 1996, and here 4½ months later, was not the same man who had three epic bouts with Evander Holyfield. Those bouts had taken everything out of him by the time he met Golota.

"No one knew how far Bowe had gone back until we saw *him in the* ring being beaten by Golota's jab," Steward said. Steward explained that because Bowe was so negative, Golota looked superb as he threw the jab and unleashed combinations to the body and head almost at will.

In the second contest, Golota gave Bowe a worse beating, but when the big man, in desperation, fought back and floored Golota, he exposed three serious flaws in Golota's character and technique.

He showed that Golota was an "on-top fighter" who revealed signs of wanting to quit when he found himself on the floor; that, for all his excellent work inside, he was not much more than an East European amateur.

When Bowe retaliated with a combination, Golota was so flustered that all he could do was flail in an uncontrolled manner as if he had never been taught to box. He looked like a robot with a faulty circuit. In view of the low blows that followed, it becomes clear why Golota had to resort to biting Samson Po'uha in 1995 and butting Dannel Nicholson a year later.

It is imperative for Lewis to take charge early to break Golota's resolve. Golota has an excellent jab and if Lewis hangs back, he could find himself trailing for the early part of the contest. However, once he takes the challenger's jab away, he should be able to finish him. Should the bout go into the later stages, when Golota tends to become ragged, there is a distinct chance of the Pole resorting to street fighting.

The referee, Joe Cortes, said he would not stand for any nonsense. "I'm going to be fair, but firm and I expect both fighters to follow the rules," he said. "I won't tolerate any nonsense from either fighter if a flagrant foul is committed."

However, the bout should not reach the disqualification stage: I expect Lewis to stop Golota in six rounds.

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Changes at the top after Luxembourg race

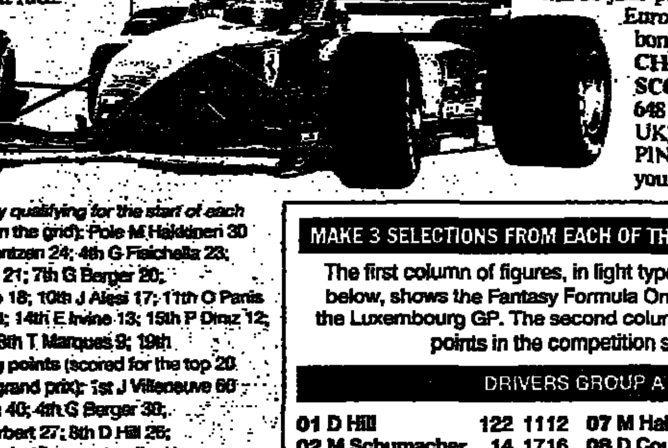
THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE

With only two grands prix left in our Formula One competition the Luxembourg Grand Prix has produced two joint leaders in the race for our £25,000 prize. D Shepherd of Montrose, Angus (Raith Rovers FC) and A Wood of Bromley, Kent (Wood-Racing), both scored 1,406 points to share the lead with 11,252 points each. M Price of Stafford (Mercury) wins a trip for two to next year's British GP. S Roberts of Hollywell, Flintshire (Marchandon) gets a Sony Playstation and CD-Rom game. They were selected at random from those managers who scored 1,504 points at Luxembourg. All four winners scored the maximum 600 bonus points available for that race.

An updated leaderboard will be published next Sunday.

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Japanese Grand Prix will win a trip for two to next year's British GP at Silverstone. The runner-up gets a Sony PlayStation, and CD-Rom game.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Japanese Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, October 9. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the European Grand Prix bonus points.



CHECK YOUR SCORE Call 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number to check your score

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd J Villeneuve 25; 3rd H-H Frentzen 24; 4th G Fisichella 23; 5th M Schumacher 22; 6th D Coulthard 21; 7th G Berger 20; 8th R Schumacher 19; 9th R Barrichello 18; 10th J Alesi 17; 11th O Panis 16; 12th J Magnussen 15; 13th D Hill 14; 14th E Irvine 13; 15th P Diniz 12; 16th J Herbert 11; 17th S Nakano 10; 18th T Marques 9; 19th G Morbidelli 8; 20th M Salo 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st J Villeneuve 60 points; 2nd J Alesi 50; 3rd H-H Frentzen 40; 4th G Berger 30; 5th P Diniz 29; 6th O Panis 28; 7th J Herbert 27; 8th D Hill 26; 9th G Morbidelli 25; 10th M Salo 24; (Only 10 were classified.) Lap points (one point for each lap completed): J Villeneuve 67 points; J Alesi 67; H-H Frentzen 67; G Berger 67; P Diniz 67; O Panis 67; J Herbert 67; D Hill 67; G Morbidelli 66; M Salo 66; J Verstappen 50; M Hakkinen 48; R Barrichello 43; D Coulthard 42; J Magnussen 40; E Irvine 22; S Nakano 16; M Schumacher 2; U Katayama 1; T Marques 1. *Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place):* M Salo 30 points; P Diniz 30; G Morbidelli 30; J Herbert 27; J Alesi 24; D Hill 15; O Panis 15; G Berger 9; J Villeneuve 3. Fastest lap time of grand prix: H-H Frentzen 10 points. Penalty points. Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): M Schumacher -10 points; E Irvine -10; M Hakkinen -10; D Coulthard -10; R Barrichello -10; J Verstappen -10; U Katayama -10; R Schumacher -10; G Fisichella -10; S Nakano -10; T Marques -10; J Magnussen -10. *Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.*

CONSTRUCTORS. Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Williams 30 points; Benetton 25; Arrows 22; Prost 21; Sauber 20; Tyrell 17. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Ferrari -20 points; McLaren -20; Jordan -20; Minardi -20; *Stewart -20; Prost -10; Tyrrell -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points* deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Luxembourg GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS GROUP A					
01 D Hill	122	1112	07 M Hakkinen	63	1081
02 M Schumacher	14	1716	08 D Coulthard	53	1262
03 J Villeneuve	155	1638	09 R Barrichello	51	770
04 E Irvine	25	1241	10 H-H Frentzen	141	1410
05 J Alesi	158	1633	11 J Herbert	132	1316
06 G Berger	126	1375	12 M Salo	127	1183
DRIVERS GROUP B					
13 O Panis	126	1612	19 G Fisichella	13	1380
14 J Verstappen	40	959	20 S Nakano	16	1015
15 U Katayama	-9	854	21 G Morbidelli	129	1387
16 P Diniz	138	865	22 T Marques	0	828
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	45	756
18 R Schumacher	9	1022	24 V Sospiri	0	0
CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C			CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D		
25 Williams	30	235	31 Arrows	22	-12
26 Ferrari	-20	220	32 Sauber	20	179
27 McLaren	-20	109	33 Tyrrell	7	-2
28 Benetton	25	272	34 Minardi	-20	28
29 Jordan	-20	127	35 Stewart	-20	-137
30 Prost	11	134	36 Lola	0	0

*Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الإمل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Rise of tea boy who made good

Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, is maintaining his perspective

JUSTIN SLEE

Wilson talks eloquently about the challenge of leading Barnsley in the Premiership."I believe in the adage that if you want to be heard, you should speak quietly," he says

The lines around his brown eyes wrinkle when he smiles. It is a schoolboy's smile, it implores you to share the joke. The eyes do not sparkle, though, when he frowns. They become liquid and stern like a headmaster's. "I don't suffer fools lightly," he says, and you believe him.

Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, is stocky but still possesses the lightness of being shared by all professional sportsmen. He is wearing shorts and has "DW" stitched into his training top. As he speaks, he lifts his feet on to a small table in the boardroom. "They've been great to me, this lot," he said, pointing to the photographs of the club's directors mounted on the wall. "They are all really into their football."

He talks freely, trusting a reporter's notebook in the same way he would someone sitting next to him on a train. Such absence of edifice and caution is charming. The world closes in to a single room, a pot of tea and his distinct pleasure in conversation. There is none of the habitual "hurry-hurry, here's your quotes, there's the door".

Barnsley have made a poor start to their first season in the FA Carling Premiership and are already enmeshed in a relegation battle that most observers felt was inevitable. Wilson remains chipper all the same and he has greater concerns than football to shadow his days.

His mother, Annie, who attended almost every game in which he was involved — either as player or manager — died shortly after the season began. "She was a lovely woman, so friendly and so patient. You've got to keep *those things to yourself* though. I suppose that's a northern trait, you harden up," he said.

Wilson began his working life as a tea boy at Ravenhead brickworks, close to his home town of Billinge, near Wigan. His father, Jim "Tug" Wilson, also worked there as a forklift truck driver. Wilson had signed associate schoolboy forms with Sunderland, but had not been offered an apprenticeship.

His return to professional *football was reminiscent of a* story drawn from a schoolboy football annual. A shadowy figure in an overcoat arrived one afternoon at the brickworks. The stranger was Bobby Smith, then manager of Bury. He persuaded Wilson Sr that his son should leave the brickworks and become a footballer.

"My dad was old school. I think he told Bobby he didn't mind at all, as long as he made sure I was disciplined and did as I was told," Wilson said.

He made his debut at 17 and it was the start of a playing career spanning 18 years, eight clubs, all four divisions and 24 international caps for Northern Ireland. He has been described as a journeyman footballer and if this is the epithet for consistency, allied to a certain neatness of play, then it is apt.

Football insiders believe his playing days were fundamentally an apprenticeship for a starring role as a manager. He was hungry to learn and his *mentors ranged* from the famous to the unsung. He played under Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest and Ron Atkinson at Sheffield Wednesday, but he mentions other names that are less familiar; men who, quietly but efficiently, shape the character of a football club.

Since he has spent much of his career in Yorkshire and has appeared for Northern Ireland, there is ambiguity about Wilson's roots. He will have none of it and feels he is stamped indelibly: "Made in Lancashire." His parents met while his father was serving *with the Royal Navy in Northern* Ireland. Annie lived in Londonderry, where Jim played as a full back with Derry City.

LIFE AT THE TOP

The couple married and moved to the small, semi-rural town of Billinge, between Wigan and St Helens, an area of flat land that runs to the Irish Sea. Wilson is remembered fondly in the town.

"There's a lot of Wigan in him. We don't crow about things from the rooftops. We just get on with the job," Mick Hannan said. He knew Wilson in the 1970s when they were both involved in amateur football. Wilson played for Double Seven youth club, and the team was affiliated to Wigan Athletic.

Wilson still exudes this aura of calm and integrity. In *conversation, he refers contin*ually to trust, honesty and commitment. During his short time in management, he has surrounded himself with people loyal to this mantra.

"I like to suss out someone's character, to listen to what they have to say. I very rarely rant and rave. I believe in the adage that if you want to be heard, you should speak quietly," he said.

Viv Anderson, now assistant manager at Middlesbrough, brought Wilson to Barnsley as his own assistant when he became manager in 1993. He recommended that Wilson should replace him when he left a year later.

"Danny is intelligent and works hard. He is a very straight-talking person; what you see is what you get. He is very principled," Anderson said.

Barnsley take on Arsenal, the Premiership leaders, at Highbury today. It is another challenge in a challenging season. Wilson has been here before, it is merely the scenery that has changed. *Back in 1974, Wigan Athletic B* were losing 3-0 at half-time against Hindley Town in the Subsidiary Cup final. Wilson was just 14 and came on as a substitute. The score? 4-3 for Wigan Athletic B, all the goals made by Wilson.

MARK HODKINSON

Defeat haunts Evans

By Matt Dickinson

LIVERPOOL may have dispatched Celtic from the Uefa Cup, but the Glasgow connection refuses to go away. Yesterday's second-round draw paired Roy Evans's team against Strasbourg, the conquerors of Rangers in the previous round, and the Anfield manager will be calling Ibrox for guidance.

The first-leg trip to France on October 21 will also give the Merseyside club a chance to prove to the host country that they can play significantly better than in the woeful 3-0 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final last season.

"That was one of the low points of my managerial career," Evans said. "We would like to put the record straight and this gives us a chance to settle the scores after Paris. They must be a decent team to have beaten Rangers twice and I will be ringing Walter Smith for information about them. You'll find that they'll raise their game to play against us."

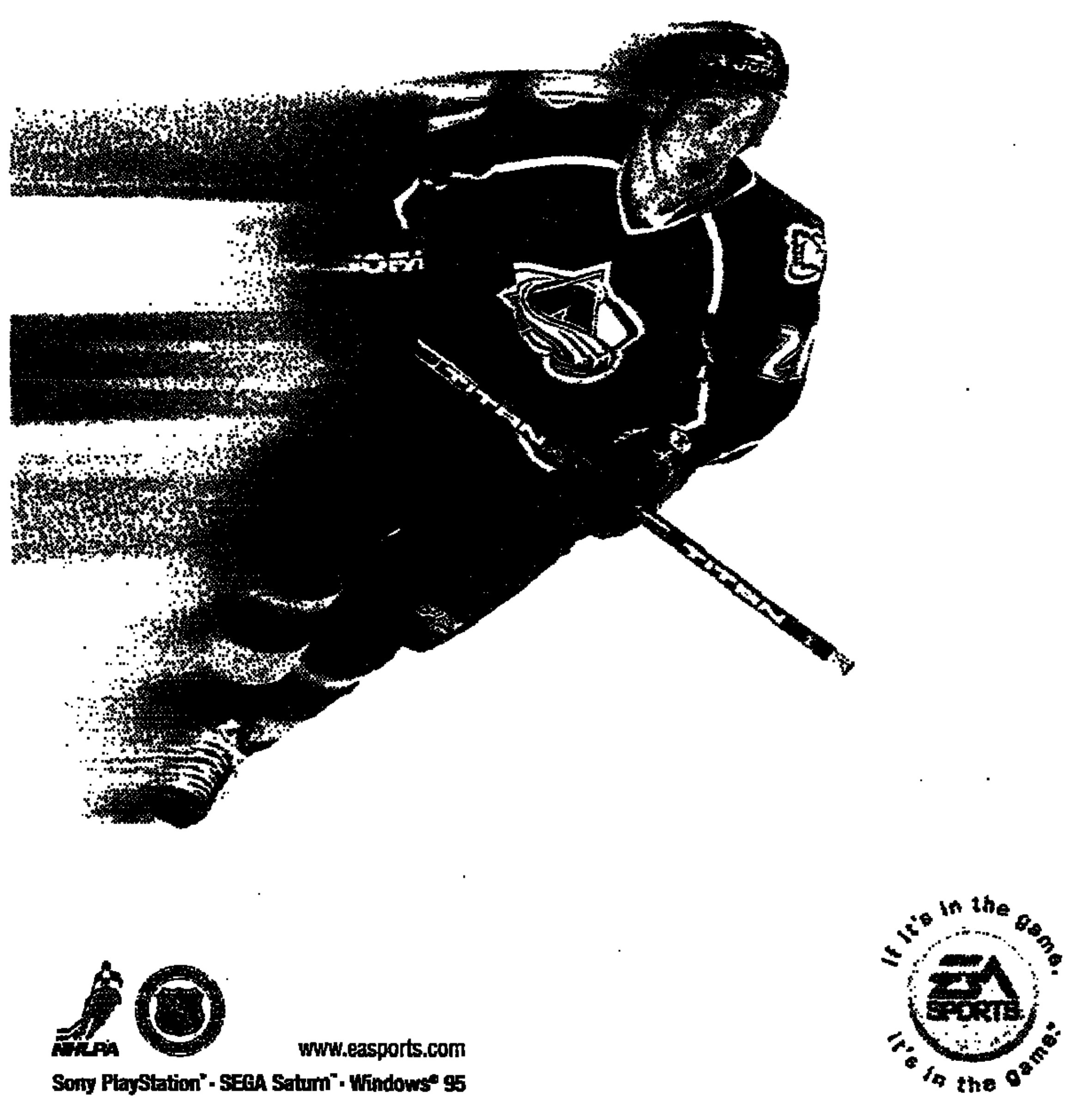
It is not an easy draw, but it could have been worse, as Aston Villa can verify. They *face Athletic Bilbao, surprise* victors over Jürgen Klinsmann's Sampdoria in the first round.

While the draw was hardly encouraging, it did, at least, bring back happy memories for Brian Little, the Villa manager, who was a player when the Birmingham club knocked the Spaniards out of the same competition in the 1977-78 campaign..

"It will be a hard game," *Little* said. "The tournament is hard and a lot of people will look upon Bilbao as a threat, having claimed a hell of a scalp in knocking out Sampdoria."

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Chelsea have been drawn away in the first leg to Tromsö, from northern Norway. Renowned in their own country for their direct, long-ball style, it could be an interesting clash of football cultures. Chelsea should not be taken by surprise: their striker, Tore Andre Flo, was signed from the Norwegian club.

DRAWS: Uefa Cup: Second round: Ajax (Holl) v Udinese (It); Sporting Braga (Por) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo); Metz (Fr) v Karlsruhe (Ger); Strasbourg (Fr) v Liverpool, Internazionale (It) v Lyons (Fr); Rapid Vienna (Austria) v Munich 1860 (Ger); MTK Budapest (Hun) v Croatia Zagreb (Cro). Spartak Moscow (Russ) or FC Sion (Switz) v Real Valladolid (Sp); Schalke 04 (Ger) v Anderlecht (Bel); AGF Aarhus (Den) v Twente Enschede (Holl); Athletic Bilbao (Sp) v Aston Villa; Auxerre (Fr) v OFI Crete (Gr); Steaua Bucarest (Rom) v Bastia (Fr), Rotor Volgograd (Russ) v Lazio (It), Atletico Madrid (Sp) v PAOK Salonika (Gr); FC Bruges (Bel) v VfL Bochum (Ger). *First legs to be played October 21, second legs November 4.* Cup Winners' Cup: Second round: Tromsö (Nor) v Chelsea; Germinal Ekeren (Bel) v VfB Stuttgart (Ger), Lokomotiv Moscow (Russ) v Kocaelispor (Tur); Shakhtyor Donetsk (Ukr) v Vicenza (It); Real Betis (Sp) v FC Copenhagen (Den); AEK Athens (Gr) v Sturm Graz (Austria); Nice (Fr) v Slavia Prague (Cz); NK Primorje (Slovenia) v Roda JC Kerkrade (Holl). *First legs to be played October 23, second legs November 6.*



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Mind games play on Italy

The showdown in Rome will be as much a matter of mental fortitude as footballing skill

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Not since Renzo Buffon, the Italy goalkeeper, broke his nose on Johnny Haynes's knee in the Olympic Stadium in May 1961 have England beaten Italy in Rome. Or anywhere else in Italy for that matter.

"He didn't half catch my knee," Haynes said afterwards, with no evident irony. Buffon left the field, substituted by the far less-experienced Vavassori. Largely in consequence, England won 3-2.

For 40 extraordinary years, Italy failed to beat England. The first meeting was actually in Rome in 1933, when the teams drew 1-1. Then, in November 1934, at Highbury, the Italy team went berserk when their ruthless centre half, Luisito Monti, broke his foot after 90 seconds. They went three-down with ten men, but pulled two goals back in the second half.

"Players who had previously run wild," *The Times* recorded, "began to run into position."

At last, in 1973, the bubble burst twice, Italy won home and away. Not since Yankee Stadium, in 1976, when a young Ray Wilkins and company turned the tide at half-time, have England prevailed.

Their best chance of doing so now, or at least of getting the draw that would be sufficient, lies in the character of Cesare Maldini and the players he manages.

Will Italy freeze? Meeting Glenn Hoddle recently, in the dressing-room corridor at Chelsea, mentioning that England's win over Italy in Montpellier last June was of huge pyschological importance, one got the reply: "And the *way* we won!"

Add to that the way Italy did not win in Georgia, the way that Maldini agonised on the touchline, and you can see the possible scenario. When Italian teams, with all that talent, play poorly, it is usually just in the mind.

In Georgia, Maldini communicated his anxiety to his men and did not announce his team until they were in the dressing-room — he usually gives it the previous day — and, as a result, got a strangled performance in the first half, reminiscent of the worst days of Arrigo Sacchi, his predecessor.

The first 20 minutes in Rome could be decisive. Should the Italians score an early goal and get the fickle Roman crowd behind them, then they could play England off the field. Fail to score, even fall behind, and that crowd could turn on them as though it were the Colosseum.

There will be no Roberto Di Matteo, who is suspended, in the Italy team, a substantial blow given his fluency, his ability *to glide through undetected* and score cool goals. Demetrio Albertini will be back and his free kicks are something to be watched — as, of course, are Gianfranco Zola's — but he lacks the elegance, invention and ball skills of Di Matteo.

The combative Dino Baggio, scorer of some vital goals for Italy, especially with his head, will also be in midfield and, modestly, Di Matteo says that he will not be missed, since the Juventus captain, Antonio Conte, is playing so well. Reminded that Conte has lately been injured, Di Matteo was quite sure that he could be fit for the game.

Maldini now cuts a figure of some pathos. Greeted as the new messiah when Sacchi resigned, he has never had to endure such pressure and such criticism.

Ironically, one of the reasons Maldini was so ecstatically welcomed was that he was expected, in his previously relaxed way, to give the artists — the likes of Zola, Roberto Baggio, Del Piero and the new hope, Inzaghi — their fling.

Baggio could well come on at some point, but he is unlikely to start. Zola, with his infinite wiles, seems sure of his place up front, but initially, at least, Maldini seems likely to flank him with a big man, either Casiraghi or Vieri. And what of Del Piero, who must enter the attack at some point; but when, and where?

Will it be 3-5-3 or 4-4-2? When Maldini took over, he was expected to restore the "traditional" Italian game of *catenaccio*, with a sweeper. This he initially did, but, during the Tournoi de France, he surprisingly switched to 4-4-2.

Will Christian Panucci play? Coveted by Fabio Capello, who took him to Real Madrid but is now back in charge of Milan, this versatile right back is staying in Spain. Maldini, however, keeps using two right wingers, Angelo Di Livio and Attilio Lombardo, on his right flank.

This is a battle that will be decided as much in the head as in the legs. Zola will not discuss it, afraid that anything he says may be taken down and used in evidence against him. "I prefer not to talk about it, because I am playing in England," he said, "but it's a special game."

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

So much to do, Le Saux to do it

Graeme Le Saux may have interests away from football but his fierce professional ambition remains undimmed

OLIVER HOLT

At the back, away from the entrance and the noise of the rush-hour traffic making its way out of West London in the early evening, the café opened up into a conservatory that was an idyll of bohemia. The walls were an acceptable shade of orange; the waitresses, who might have been eastern European, were kooky but attentive.

In one corner, a man was kneeling by his table, peering through a camera lens, attempting to take a picture of a piece of sheet music. In another, a middle-aged woman with an American accent who said she was a "flight attendant", sat stock still as if she were in a trance. Graeme Le Saux was at a table by the wall, drinking coffee out of a glass.

This is his habitat, his favourite bolt-hole, the place that he and his wife, Mariana, love to frequent. It fits his image beautifully, too. Everyone has got Le Saux down as an aesthete, a lover of books and photography and antiques and films and museums — a beacon of enlightenment in a world of troglodytes. This is the sort of place in which you would expect to find him.

The image, though, is partly one of convenience. Le Saux has been shoved into the pigeonhole marked "Different" by some sections of the media since it became known that he was fond of eccentric things such as reading books and watching films that might not automatically spawn five sequels. Like Steve McManaman, who dared to express an interest in politics, he is "the thinking man's footballer". Because of this, the intellectual side of Le Saux's character has been exaggerated to the detriment of his talent as England's finest left-sided defender.

Some things do set him apart, however. He avoids clichés rigorously. "A game of two halves" is not in his phrase book. He is interested in the arts and he speaks about films such as his favourite, *Delicatessen*, with affection and curiosity. Nothing, though, matches the passion, the intensity, that infuses his words when he talks about football.

That, in fact, is really what makes Le Saux different. That is the paradox inherent in his character. He may have more interests outside the game than many of his fellow professionals, but his enthusiasm for his sport and his absolute determination to gain all that he can from his career exceeds that of the majority of his peers, too.

As he spoke in that conservatory, in fact, Le Saux's thoughts could hardly have been farther from London's café society. Only that morning, he said, the beauty of the profession he followed and the sheer joy that it brought him had struck home again. London might offer many cultural attractions, but it was Hyde Park that tantalised him the most. You have to remind yourself sometimes that you are playing the sport you loved so much just as a hobby," Le Saux said. "It is so different when you are playing professional football. You are involved at a different level. But I would love to go down to that park with my mates and just have a kick around.

"I can't do that because of the position I'm in, but I do get tremendous joy out of football. I was standing on the training ground today and we were having shooting practice and people were watching. I was watching Luca [Vialli] shooting and scoring, watching him get excited when he scored. I was thinking: 'This is work?' These people have come to watch us doing this and we are getting paid for it.

ACTION IMAGES

Le Saux is glad to be back at Chelsea this season

"People think sometimes that I have all these other interests just to try to prove something, but there are a lot of facets to every person and I think it is healthy to explore them. I know the image that I have, but I don't think I suffer for it.

"People just want to create a media image. The most important thing for me to get across is that I am myself. My passion as a youngster was to be a footballer and that has not changed."

Le Saux, 28, realised just how much the game meant to him when he fractured and dislocated his right ankle playing for Blackburn Rovers in December 1995. He thought at first that his career was over, but, although he missed Euro 96, he started playing again last autumn and has since regained his England place.

Frustrated by Blackburn's failure to build on their FA Carling Premiership-winning success, he began to agitate for a move and, at the beginning of this season, the Lancashire club finally gave it to him. Chelsea, the club at which he had started his career in 1987, broke its club record by paying £5 million to bring him back to London.

"For a player to come back at the peak of his career," Le Saux said, "rather than at the end of it, which usually tends to be the case, gives me an excellent chance to put something back in return for all my early years there."

Amid all the tinkering that Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea coach, has done, the constant rotation of his forwards, the resting, or dropping of players such as Gianfranco Zola, Gianluca Vialli, Mark Hughes and Roberto di Matteo, Le Saux has been an ever-present in the Premiership campaign that has seen Chelsea climb to fourth place in the table.

The fierce ambition that burns within him, a most unbohemian trait, made some wonder quite how he would cope with Gullit's squad system when he arrived at Chelsea, who had just bought the left-sided wing back, Celestine Babayaro, from Anderlecht for more than £2 million. Babayaro has been injured since the start of the season, but came on as a substitute against Slovan Bratislava on Thursday.

"We all have to accept the squad system," Le Saux said. "If I was rested, I would have to cope with it. It depends on how it is done. From a competitive point of view, the only way is to come back even more hungry and stronger. As long as it is justified, you have to be able to deal with it.

"It is difficult because everybody wants to play and you want to play more when you are not playing. That is a footballer's nature. When you are not playing, you think 'I could really do it today', but, if there are logical reasons for it, and those reasons are explained and you are not a scapegoat, then you accept it.

"I am a very ambitious person and, from a professional player's point of view, I have a finite career and I have to do as well as I can for myself. That was not going to happen at Blackburn and it is too short a career to be anything other than 100 per cent sure of what you want and then go out and get it.

"I am not saying that you have to go out and cause a scene, or go out and tread on people, but, when I got injured, I realised just how short the length of your career could be. I am looking for the best chances of success in a team that is going to challenge for the major honours and continually develop my career, and I feel I can do that at Chelsea.

"The club has developed in so many ways off the pitch as well as on since I left in 1993. It is a club that always had ideas of grandeur, but never really put into place the right structure to realise them. Now, they are actually doing that. There is a buzz about the place that has never been there before.

"The culture in football has changed. It has been forced to change because the criteria for stadiums changed. The atmosphere changed because of that and you had division, the breaking down of your collective supporter.

"The powers that be have moved the game from one place to another in terms of the people they are trying to attract, mostly through the prices they are charging, and I am part of that because I am getting paid by the football club. But, if you balance it up between good and bad, it has got to be good because you are getting more families along, children, more female supporters. There is a different atmosphere, now, which I am grateful for."

Le Saux has won 20 caps for his country and, although most people see him as the favourite to beat off the claims of Phil Neville for England's left-sided defending role in the showdown with Italy in Rome to decide automatic qualification for next summer's World Cup finals, the Jersey-born defender insists that he will not start thinking about the match until after the game against Liverpool tomorrow.

"England is very important to me," he said. "It is like a reward. I have tried to look at it as a reward for playing well and playing consistently for my club. I have never seen it as more important or more flattering than club football.

"Even when I join up with the squad, I always take it in stages. When we meet up, you are still a long way from being in the starting line-up. Then, you have a week of hard training, proving that you are the right person for the job and then, if you are lucky or you prove yourself, you get to play. That is the icing on the cake."

The icing on the cake? Graeme Le Saux laughs at himself. The cliché forced its way in there in the end.

MARC ASPLAND

England's premier left-sided defender would really like nothing more than to be able to go down to the park for a kickabout with his mates

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Kevin Keegan

TIMES readers are invited to a *Times/Dillons* forum on Thursday October 16 in London with Kevin Keegan, the former manager of Newcastle United. Keegan, who was also an England international footballer, will be the star speaker on a panel which will include Oliver Holt, football correspondent of *The Times*. Among the topics for discussion are details of Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle last season, his views on modern management, his return to football with Fulham and England's World Cup prospects.

The forum marks the publication of Keegan's *My Autobiography* (Little Brown £16.99) and will be held at *Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 at* 7.30pm. Admission price is £10 (concessions £7.50) and includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to put questions to him.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me .... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Forum with Kevin Keegan at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 16, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1.

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Barnsley's Lars laugh

by Russell Kempson

FOR those joining the FA Carling Premiership gravy train from abroad, the transitional period can be fraught with angst. Lars Leese, Barnsley's former Bayer Leverkusen goalkeeper, has, for instance, had problems adjusting to how the British react to defeat.

He recalled the aftermath of his side's 6-0 humiliation against Chelsea. "We went for a drink in the town afterwards," he said. "In Germany, you would lock yourself in your house for fear of being lynched, but it is different here. So many people wanted to buy us beers to help us drown our sorrows." Leese, apparently, ended up seriously *besoffen*.

Scissor kick

Wimbledon like it to be known that they have toned down their "Crazy Gang" image, but Michael Hughes, the former West Ham United winger, will testify that they are still a playful bunch. After recently completing a £1.6 million move to Selhurst Park, Hughes observed: "I don't think they are as crazy as they are made out to be but they do have a few characters." He diplomatically forget to mention how, during the obligatory initiation ceremony, his clothes were shredded.

Rota request

Oswestry Town, of the Cymru Alliance, were hoping to rush through the international clearance of Francesco Rota, their latest signing, in time for their game this weekend. Rota, 25, a midfield player from Udine in Italy, is visiting England on a three-month work exchange. He was discovered in the Golden Parrott, a local hostelry, after striking up a conversation with the Oswestry secretary, who promised to secure Rota's services even if he had to scale the highest mountain, perform death-defying stunts, charm the coldest damsel or outwit the most devious bureaucrat. The name of the Oswestry secretary is Bond. James Bond.

Yellow peril

Ricky Newman, Millwall midfield player, take a bow. Newman is believed to have set a record for the fastest booking when he clattered into David Rennie, of Northampton Town, at the Sixfields Stadium last Saturday. Steve Baines, the referee, reached for his yellow card with 3.1sec on the clock.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Bordeaux's fanatical shoal of supporters are nicknamed "The Piranhas".

Rosler prepared to wait

By Matt Dickinson

THE Bosman ruling may have cut the ties that unjustly bound out-of-contract footballers, but it can be a double-edged sword. Take Uwe Rösler, Manchester City's German forward, who finds himself in a well-paid but unfulfilling limbo at Maine Road.

Rösler has refused to sign an extension to his contract, knowing that it expires in the summer when he will be able to negotiate a lucrative deal to move elsewhere. Not surprisingly, City are anxious to trade the 28-year-old while they can demand a fee and hope to recoup around £2.5 million.

The trouble starts because, so far, no one seems to want him, despite months of speculation linking Sunderland, Everton and Sheffield Wednesday with bids. To compound the problem, Frank Clark, the City manager, does not want to pick a transfer-listed player, particularly after his team demolished Swindon Town 6-0 last week without the German to suggest that they could yet be involved in the race for promotion from the Nationwide League first division.

"We have had no firm bids from anyone, nobody has even rung up to talk figures," Clark, who takes his revitalised side to Ipswich Town today, said. "I am surprised. I read all sorts about what would happen as soon as Uwe turned down the new contract here, but nothing has materialised. Maybe people think they can get him for free at the end of the season when his current contract expires, but that is no good to us or the player. The whole situation is far from satisfactory."

Rösler's best hope may be a bid from Middlesbrough, who are searching for a striker to replace the departed Fabrizio Ravanelli. Bryan Robson, the manager, who pits his team against Sheffield United at the Riverside Stadium today, was hoping to lure Dean Holdsworth from Wimbledon, but he eventually moved to Bolton Wanderers. Robson is keen to sign an English player, but the lack of alternatives could make him turn to Rösler.

The second division spotlight will, inevitably, fall on Craven Cottage today, where Kevin Keegan, the chief operating officer, and Ray Wilkins, the manager, take their bow in front of Fulham's fans before the game against Oldham Athletic.

With demand for tickets expected to exceed capacity, the club is liasing with the local council to try to increase the 10,500 maximum stipulated on the safety certificate. Leon McKenzie, on loan from Crystal Palace and the only new recruit so far, will make his debut.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

LIVERPOOL v CHELSEA
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt
Liverpool's precocious forward, Michael Owen, has been invited to join the England squad next week until they leave for Rome on Wednesday. However, he could still find himself left out of the Liverpool team in this weekend's most glamorous match.

Owen, 17, has been outstanding for Liverpool so far this season and has scored three goals. When Robbie Fowler returned from injury recently, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, even prefered Owen to Karlheinz Riedle in the Liverpool attack for the matches against Aston Villa and Celtic.

In the second leg of their Uefa Cup tie with the Scottish club, though, Owen began to look a little jaded for the first time. When Riedle came on, he made an immediate impression and, even though it was Fowler who had made way for him, the feeling on Merseyside is that if one is to give way to accommodate the Germany international, it will be Owen.

Although Paul Ince was outstanding again in the goalless draw with Celtic, Liverpool suffered for the lack of a playmaker and even though Jamie Redknapp, a long-term injury casualty, came through his first A team game successfully on Wednesday night alongside Oyvind Leonhardsen and Neil Ruddock, neither they nor Mark Wright and Dominic Matteo will be available against Chelsea.

The West London team are the form side at the moment. Unlucky to leave Old Trafford with a draw ten days ago, they deserved their win over Newcastle last Saturday and eased through to the next round of the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday night with a comfortable 2-0 win over Slovan Bratislava in Slovakia.

Even though Frank Leboeuf will be suspended and Michael Duberry is still absent through injury, Chelsea could give Celestine Babayaro, the wing back that they signed from Anderlecht in the summer, his Premiership debut. The last time he was on the brink of recovery, though, he injured himself doing a celebratory flick-flack during a reserve team match.

Quite what pairing Gullit, the manager, employs in attack is anyone's guess. Gianluca Vialli and Tore Andre Flo are the men in possession, but, in recent experience, that has counted for nothing. Chelsea are just the stronger side at the moment and should be favourites to win, but home advantage, the determination of Ince, the resurgence of McManaman and the probable return of Riedle should ensure that the honours are shared.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — R Jones, B T Kvarme, P Babb, S I Bjornebye — J McAteer, P Ince, S McManaman, P Berger — K Riedle, R Fowler
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, B Lambourde, A Myers, G Le Saux — R Di Matteo, G Poyet, D Wise, C Babayaro — G Zola, M Hughes.
Referee: D Elleray.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, 4pm.
■ PREDICTION: Honours even.

Calling the Toon: Jackie Milburn, the most revered of all Newcastle No 9s, and Mirandinha, popular but perhaps not as great

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

NOT QUITE WOR JACKIE

On the day that Les Ferdinand returns to St James' Park, Steve Wraith, editor of The No 9, the Newcastle United fanzine, chooses 11 men who have worn the famous shirt with varying degrees of distinction

1. Mirandinha
Apparently, he liked a drink before the game — by the time he left he was on tranquillisers

2. Peter Withe
The right player at the wrong time

3. Alan Shoulder
Leading scorer in 1978-79 — with seven goals

4. Billy Whitehurst
Garbage

5. Chris Waddle
Although hardly anyone remembers his number, he wore the shirt with distinction alongside Keegan and Beardsley

6. Mickey Quinn
Established a new club scoring record with 36 goals in a season

7. Rob Macdonald
One of the worst signings ever

8. George Reilly
We called him "Rambo" after he returned to the field wearing a blood-splattered bandage against West Brom

9. Paul Goddard
In 1986-87 he and Peter Beardsley kept us in the first division

10. Andy Hunt
Part of "Ossie's dream," the youth policy that just didn't work

11. Frank Pingel
Best remembered for his stupid, spikey haircut

Edited by Richard Whitehead

COVENTRY CITY v LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0

Peter Robinson
He has enjoyed many a highlight in his career. Winning the FA Cup in 1987 is an obvious example, so too is scoring a goal with an 85-yard punt the year before. Knocking Yorkshire out of the NatWest Trophy in his guise as a Minor Counties cricketer would be a third. Today offers the prospect of yet another for Steve Ogrizovic — for it is he — a club record of 488 league appearances for Coventry City, all of those at the highest level of first division, Premier League and then FA Carling Premiership, lest you were thinking that record may be more impressive if he had achieved such a figure with Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, Aston Villa or Newcastle United. None of them have been in the top flight as long as Coventry.

Yet who will take the field with Ogrizovic today is anybody's guess, certainly not Gordon Strachan's, who said yesterday: "I have no idea what the team will be." Which, from the Coventry manager, is not terribly encouraging. One Gavin Strachan, 18, stands by to join that select list of players given debuts by their dads. Williams begins a three-match suspension. Hall, Nilsson, Salako, Telfer, Johansen, Huckerby and Whelan are nursing assorted injuries. Hall and Nilsson may brave sore knees to play.

In the wake of Leeds United's hard-fought, not to say hard-to-believe, defeat of Manchester United last week, David Wetherall, the central defender and scorer of the winning goal, said this: "It's always easy to get up for the games against Manchester United and other big clubs. Now we've got to make sure we carry it on against Bristol City in the Coca-Cola Cup and again against Coventry." Well, Leeds lost at Bristol City — admittedly, they won on aggregate — so they will be doubly keen not to slip up again. Kewell is suspended and Ribeiro and Robertson are unwell. It has all the makings of a real thriller, or perhaps not.

COVENTRY CITY (possible, 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — G Strachan, W Boland, G McAllister, M Hall — D Dublin, F Lightbourne
LEEDS UNITED (possible, 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, L Radebe, D Wetherall, D Robertson — G Kelly, D Hopkin, A Haaland, L Bowyer — J-F Hasselbaink, R Wallace
Referee: A Wilkie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A draw, dour or otherwise

BOLTON WANDERERS v ASTON VILLA
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Keith Pike
One glance at the FA Carling Premiership table and this fixture screams back in *your face*: "So what?", yet for both clubs this could be the pivotal afternoon of the season.

Bolton Wanderers have a better organised, more resilient team than the one that sank without trace on their last venture into the top flight, but the Premiership has moved on apace during the past two seasons. Unless they can start getting the goals and results that their impressive new home deserves, and soon — four against the might of Leyton Orient in midweek scarcely count — they will be consigned to another relegation battle. With Blake beginning a three-match ban, Bolton will hope that Holdsworth, their £3 million capture from Wimbledon, can make an immediate impact.

For Aston Villa, one of the most consistent teams of last season in terms of selection as well as results, there are two questions. Will progress in the Uefa Cup kick-start their league campaign? Will Brian Little, their manager, keep his three strikers in harness? He tried at the start of the season with spectacularly unsuccessful results, but he may feel compelled to have another go after Milosevic's winner against Bordeaux, provided that Yorke recovers from a groin strain.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable; 4-4-1-1): K Branagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, G Taggart, M Whitlow — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — P Beardsley — D Holdsworth.
ASTON VILLA (probable; 3-4-1-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper, A Wright — D Yorke — S Collymore, S Milosevic.
Referee: G Poll.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Villa by two.

NEWCASTLE UNITED v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

David Maddock
Trust David Ginola to offer us something different. While Les Ferdinand suggested all the usual clichés on his return to St James' Park, the Frenchman again explored his imagination to offer an unusual response.

"It will be an interesting concept for me to return," he said. "They are very passionate supporters at Newcastle and maybe they don't like players leaving the zebra shirts, they might boo me, therefore. But I can understand that, I appreciate their emotion."

Newcastle United are more likely to be lions than zebras this afternoon, hunting down an ever-wounded Tottenham Hotspur team. Iversen and Anderton are still missing and Howells is also "unlikely" to play, according to Gerry Francis, their manager.

At least Ferdinand is back and Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, may eye him enviously given the dearth of strikers at his club with the injuries to Shearer and, lately, Asprilla, who will be absent for a month.

Kevin Keegan suggested it was during the 7-1 hammering of Spurs here last season that he decided to quit Newcastle. If there is a repeat of the score, then another manager is likely to go, but this time, he will have no Newcastle connection.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): S Given — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, J Beresford — T Ketsbaia, D Batty, J Barnes, K Gillespie — J D Tomasson, I Rush.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 5-3-2): I Walker — J Scales, R Vega, G Mabbutt, S Campbell, S Carr — R Fox, S Clements, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, C Armstrong
Referee: M Bodenham

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Not 7-1 this time, but still another Newcastle victory.

SOUTHAMPTON v WEST HAM UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Russell Kempson
Southampton may be sinking fast into David Jones's locker, but at least Matthew Le Tissier is back, recovered from his broken arm and ready to wreak havoc in his inimitable, languid style. He scored both goals in Southampton's 2-0 win against Brentford in the Coca-Cola Cup second round at Griffin Park on Tuesday and would take great pleasure in inflicting further aggravation on West Ham United this afternoon.

"I feel quite fresh," he said. "It's like the beginning of August for me, like the start of the season again. The important thing against Brentford was to keep a clean sheet. If we can do that against West Ham, we should win."

A fresh, enthusiastic and invigorated Le Tissier is an awesome sight — as is an on-song Eyal Berkovic, West Ham's former Southampton midfield player. Berkovic toyed with Huddersfield Town on Monday, also in the Coca-Cola Cup, and helped John Hartson, the snorting Welsh bull, to record his first hat-trick at club level.

West Ham can blow hot and cold, and Southampton mostly cold, so victory for the visitors will be warm order with the bookmakers. Don't bet on it, though. St Matthew has returned.

SOUTHAMPTON (possible; 4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson, A Neilson — M Le Tissier — K Davies, M Evans.
WEST HAM UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — F Lampard, S Lomas, E Berkovic, A Impey — J Hartson, I Dowie.
Referee: M Riley

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Southampton to win, inspired by Guernsey's finest.

WIMBLEDON v BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0

Brian Glanville
Blackburn Rovers have decided not to risk Chris Coleman, the centre back, who has recovered from serious injury, on his old stamping ground of Selhurst Park, where he made his name with Crystal Palace. *Henchoz and Hendry* will continue in central defence. Coleman, who had been out for a year, made his second appearance of the season in Blackburn's Coca-Cola Cup game at Preston North End in midweek. To their shame, *Blackburn* lost 1-0, having won the first leg 6-0, but, like Wimbledon at the New Den, they did not field a full-strength side.

Wimbledon took Millwall apart a second time, 4-1. Such is the strength of their squad that they have sold Holdsworth to *Bolton Wanderers, yet they seem* to produce excellent young strikers almost on a conveyor belt. Euell scored a couple at Millwall. The precocious, lanky 19-year-old Cort has been scoring ever since a remarkable debut at Newcastle United.

Blackburn, since their early burst of goals, have been a disappointment, the parts so much greater than the whole. Ripley, whose right-wing play they have missed, may begin on the bench. Wimbledon have been inconsistent, but their recent form has been the more impressive.

WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — C Hughes, V Jones, R Earle, M Hughes — E Ekoku, C Cort.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable: 4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, P Valery — K Gallacher, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — C Sutton, M Dahlin
Referee: D Gallagher

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Wimbledon to win.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v EVERTON
Today, 3.0

Michael Calvin
The cynics are sharpening their hobnails and refilling their poison pens in anticipation of one of the great traditions of English football — the alternative blood sport of manager-baiting — being renewed at Hillsborough this afternoon.

David Pleat, whose Sheffield Wednesday team have won only once in nine FA Carling Premiership matches, cannot afford any hint of weakness. Defeat by Everton, after the indignity of elimination from the Coca-Cola Cup by Grimsby Town during the week, would, inevitably, lead to knee-jerk demands for his dismissal.

This is a nonsense, of course, but, worryingly, it is plausible to those football folk who favour expedience over experience. They conveniently overlook the fact that Wednesday reached their natural limit last season by finishing seventh in the Premiership. The new season has been fragmented by illness, injury and sheer misfortune.

The Italian temperament dictates that the pairing of Paolo di Canio and Benito Carbone is inherently unstable, but potentially prolific. Pleat's principal problem is the porous nature of an unsettled defence. Des Walker, whose loss of pace and confidence has been linked to a viral complaint, provides the latest dilemma.

Everton will be without Duncan Ferguson for the third successive match, but will not miss him if the precocious Danny Cadamarteri continues his startling goal-a-game run.

The availability of Danny Williamson counters the possible loss of Tony Grant in midfield, who sustained an ankle injury in the midweek Coca-Cola Cup trouncing of Scunthorpe United.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable; 4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, S Nicol, D Stefanovic, L Briscoe — G Whittingham, J Magilton, W Collins, M Pembridge — B Carbone, P di Canio
EVERTON (probable: 3-4-2-1): P Gerrard — S Bilic, D Watson, M Ball — E Barrett, A Grant, G Speed, T Phelan — G Stuart, J Oster — D Cadamarteri.
Referee: P Durkin.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A *typically* traumatic, high-scoring draw.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

ARSENAL v BARNSLEY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Matt Dickinson
Having argued rather limply that his team's premature Uefa Cup exit this week would bolster their FA Carling Premiership campaign, Arsène Wenger, the manager, must ensure Arsenal make a bold statement of intent against its weakest team today.

With Crystal Palace, Aston Villa and Derby County to follow before a tumultuous tussle with Manchester United, the Highbury camp have an excellent opportunity to cement their unbeaten position at the top of the *Premiership and calm support*ers' anger at their two-leg defeat to PAOK Salonika.

Everything, as is the way of things at Arsenal now, will depend on Dennis Bergkamp. The Dutchman, the only player entirely exempt from blame on Tuesday night, yesterday became the first man to win consecutive Carling Player of the Month awards outright. Besides setting up most of Ian Wright's goals, the 28-year-old is joint-leading scorer in the Premiership. He is, however, also one of its leading miscreants and one more booking would trigger an automatic suspension that Arsenal can scarcely afford.

As if Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, did not have enough concerns after five consecutive league defeats, he may have to face Bergkamp without his best man-marker, Adrian Moses, the England Under-21 defender, who has an ankle injury. "It is a big task for my players because they are pitting themselves against the best in the world," Wilson said. "That is what Bergkamp is at the moment. But that should be some*thing to inspire, not undermine* them. Going to somewhere like Highbury is a fantastic adventure for us. The only way we will enjoy it, though, is by getting something out of it." Barnsley may have picked a bad day.

With only Southampton below them after seven defeats in their first nine games, third from bottom would appear to be the height of the club's ambitions. It has not stopped them cashing in, with a new town centre superstore opening today. Could it be their own television station next?

ARSENAL (probable: 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright.
BARNSLEY (probable; 4-4-2): D Watson — M Appleby, A Moses, A de Zeeuw, A Krizan — D Sheridan, N Redfearn, E Tinkler, M Bullock — A Liddell, D Barnard.
Referee: P Jones.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to *release their frustrations with a three-goal victory.*

MANCHESTER UNITED v CRYSTAL PALACE
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Mark Hodkinson
After the exhilarating European Cup Champions' League victory against Juventus in midweek, playing Crystal Palace should have all the appeal for Manchester United of a potato pie supper at Stretford Working Men's Club. They are, of course, consummate professionals and will set about Palace with the fervour of a legitimate Roy Keane tackle.

Perhaps it was the curse of Morrissey that felled the Ireland midfielder. The crooner released the single *Roy's Keen* and, just a few days later, Keane was told by surgeons that he would not play again this season. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has already nominated Nicky Butt as the "new Roy Keane".

Solskjaer will miss this FA Carling Premiership match because of a thigh injury and Poborsky is on international duty with the Czech Republic. Butt is doubtful after suffering from double vision on Wednesday. Palace's midfield can scurry at some pace, so seeing them in duplicate will not be a pleasant experience for him. David May *returns to the squad for the first* time since he picked up an injury in a pre-season friendly.

Palace endured the ignominy of a Coca-Cola Cup defeat against Hull City in midweek. Hull, with Mark Hateley at the *helm, have* been the whipping boys of the Nationwide League third division, so the result will have done little for Palace's confidence. It might seem a highly inappropriate time to visit Old Trafford, though their inconsistency is such that they will probably do better than expected.

Lombardo, now recovered from injury, will relish the Old Trafford stage and, if his foot soldiers provide him with enough of the ball, he will supply the incision that is a joy to behold. If the match becomes fractious, Palace will not be shy of a scrap. They have collected bookings at an alarming rate this season, a consistency in the wrong department as far as Steve Coppell, their manager, is concerned.

Bruce Dyer and Roberts both face late fitness tests, but are expected to be included in Pal*ace's starting line-up.*

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, H Berg, D Irwin — D Beckham, N Butt, R Johnsen, R Giggs — E Sheringham, P Scholes.
CRYSTAL PALACE (probable; 3-5-2): K Miller — A Linighan, N Edworthy, H Hreidarsson — K Muscat, A Lombardo, A Roberts, J Fullarton, D Gordon — B Dyer, P Warhurst
Referee: S Lodge

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights
■ PREDICTION: Slender victory for United.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Shooting stars must be prepared for the plunge back to earth

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

Sometimes I wish that my life as a footballer would contain just football, but these days it is never as simple as that. As many people may be aware, I have been involved in a contract dispute with the company that supplies my football boots and it has been a difficult time. There is a court case pending, so there is very little I can say about the whole affair, although certain newspapers seem to be very interested in it. Yet the whole issue of young players of coming into the game and the decisions they must take is an interesting one.

People see footballers as stars, as players who have made the big time and live a fantasy lifestyle, but what they rarely see is the story behind the bright image, the actual process of becoming a top player. It doesn't just happen. There isn't a factory that churns out footballers who are at ease with success.

When I was a kid, I was on a Youth Training Scheme with Liverpool as a 16-year-old and I was earning about £30 a week. From there, I signed a professional contract that was not much better than the YTS, but within a year I was offered what was a decent professional contract and, for me as a 17-year-old, it was a fairly staggering thing. I did not know anything about money or even about contracts at that stage. I was just a kid who had kicked a football around hoping, like millions of others, to make it. Then suddenly I had. I didn't have an adviser and I didn't have much of an idea. It is at times like that when you wonder: "What the hell am I doing?"

Football throws young players in at the deep end when they suddenly have to deal with all sorts of things that they absolutely have no experience of. Some youngsters come from normal, working-class backgrounds and they don't know anything at all about money, but they are expected to deal with it as if they have been offered a business education and are worldly-wise in all financial matters. There is a danger that they can get involved in contracts that may not necessarily suit them.

When a player is 17, he can be offered a sponsorship deal for a *long, long time that can look* attractive to someone just starting out in the game, but within a year everything can have changed. Some players break into the first team at an early stage and then they have attained a totally different status, but they will still be stuck with all the contracts that they may have been offered as just one of thousands of young starry-eyed hopefuls.

It is a problem that I have chosen to make a stand against. Wherever I can now, I offer advice to young players to give them the benefit of my experience. It is *difficult. The game changes so* quickly these days and the money on offer can vary so widely that my experience as a 17-year-old is very different to those coming into the sport now. What was a good contract for me seven years ago would be fairly insulting in the same circumstances, these days.

But the principles are the same — there has always been a procession of youngsters making it in the game and then being asked to deal with situations that are beyond their experience. It is not even necessarily good advice to say to a young player to get himself an *agent, because there are pitfalls* there.

How do you know who to trust at that age? There is no guarantee you will select the right person and there is no guarantee that you will get good advice. What we do at our club is to offer the experience of the older players to the young lads coming through. With my situation, it was a case of drawing a line. I had to make a decision to stop somewhere with the current contract, which I felt was not right for me, and it was this year. Only time will tell what the outcome will be.

■ Beyond the border

Our defeat of Celtic on Tuesday helped to make it a rather disappointing week for Scottish football. The fact that Celtic went out without actually losing will make it a little easier for their fans, but yet again Scottish teams have not progressed in Europe. They do not have any representative in the second round of any competition and I know what a terrible feeling that must be.

In fact, everyone in English football wants the Scottish clubs to do well because we have lots of friends playing up there. I know Tosh McKinlay very well and he admitted after the game in midweek that Celtic were desperately disappointed to have gone out at Anfield. He said there is a growing pressure for their teams to pull off a decent European result. I'm not particularly qualified to comment on Scottish football, but it does seem to me that they may not have enough league competition.

Look at Rangers: they have got a great team on paper, but they went out of the Champions' League early on and now they are out of the Uefa Cup in the first round. It's a huge disappointment, but they probably do need a bit more of a test in their week-to-week competition if they are to ever translate their obvious promise into decent results on the European stage.

■ Back in the fold

It was good to be recalled to the England squad. When I saw my name on Ceefax last Monday, it was a great feeling because I desperately wanted to be a part of the international squad. Much has been said about my omission from the last squad, but it is time to draw a line under that. The fact is, you have to be playing well to be selected for England and the manager believes that I have returned to form.

What I have to do is maintain that form. The Italy game is a massive one with the result everything. To me, this is Euro 96 revisited, it is just like the Germany game and there is not a single player in England who wouldn't want to be part of a match like that. The atmosphere will be electric and I am sure the build-up will be intense. To have missed out would have been a huge disappointment, but now I have got to make the most of my opportunity.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Last 10 matches W-D-L	Current streak
1. ARSENAL (1)	9	19	+12	3	1	0	10	1	2	3	0	12	9	5-4-0	D1
2. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	9	18	+8	3	1	0	8	3	2	2	1	4	1	5-3-1	L1
3. LEICESTER CITY (4)	9	18	+7	2	3	0	8	4	3	0	1	5	2	5-3-1	W1
4. CHELSEA (5)	8	16	+12	2	0	1	7	5	3	1	1	15	5	5-1-2	W1
5. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	9	16	+10	2	2	1	12	7	2	2	0	7	2	4-4-1	D3
6. LEEDS UTD (8)	9	13	0	1	1	3	2	6	3	0	1	9	5	4-1-4	W2
7. WEST HAM UTD (10)	9	13	-2	3	0	1	7	4	1	1	3	5	10	4-1-4	W1
8. DERBY COUNTY (12)	7	12	+7	3	0	0	8	1	1	0	3	6	6	4-0-3	W2
9. LIVERPOOL (6)	8	12	+4	2	0	1	6	3	1	3	1	6	5	3-3-2	L1
10. NEWCASTLE UTD (7)	6	12	+1	3	0	1	5	4	1	0	1	1	1	4-0-2	L1
11. CRYSTAL PALACE (9)	9	11	-2	0	1	3	3	8	3	1	1	6	3	3-2-4	D2
12. COVENTRY CITY (11)	9	11	-3	2	3	0	8	6	0	2	2	0	5	2-5-2	D3
13. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (13)	9	10	-4	2	2	1	4	4	0	2	2	2	6	2-4-3	D3
14. ASTON VILLA (14)	9	10	-5	2	1	1	5	7	1	0	4	5	8	3-1-5	D1
15. WIMBLEDON (15)	8	9	0	1	2	2	6	6	1	1	1	4	4	2-3-3	D1
16. EVERTON (16)	8	8	-3	2	1	2	9	9	0	1	2	1	4	2-2-4	D1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (17)	8	8	-3	0	3	0	1	1	1	2	2	7	10	1-5-2	D3
18. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (19)	9	6	-11	1	1	2	4	8	0	2	3	7	14	1-3-5	D1
19. BARNSLEY (18)	9	6	-16	1	0	4	3	14	1	0	3	4	9	2-0-6	L5
20. SOUTHAMPTON (20)	9	4	-12	1	1	3	3	7	0	0	4	2	10	1-1-7	L2

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	22	2.75
2. Arsenal	22	2.44
3. Blackburn	19	2.11
4. Derby	14	2.00
5. Liverpool	12	1.50
6. Leicester	13	1.44
7. Manchester Utd	12	1.33
=. West Ham	12	1.33
9. Everton	10	1.25
=. Wimbledon	10	1.25
11. Leeds	11	1.22
=. Sheffield Wed	11	1.22
13. Coventry	8	1.12
14. Aston Villa	10	1.11
15. Crystal Palace	9	1.00
16. Bolton	8	1.00
17. Newcastle	6	1.00
18. Barnsley	7	0.78
19. Tottenham	6	0.67
20. Southampton	5	0.56

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. *Manchester Utd*	3	0.37
2. Leicester	6	0.75
3. Newcastle	4	0.80
4. Liverpool	6	0.85
5. Arsenal	8	1.00
6. Blackburn	9	1.12
=. Crystal Palace	9	1.12
8. Derby	7	1.17
9. Tottenham	10	1.25
10. Bolton	9	1.29
11. Coventry	11	1.37
=. Leeds	11	1.37
13. Chelsea	10	1.43
=. Wimbledon	10	1.43
15. Everton	11	1.57
16. Aston Villa	13	1.62
=. Southampton	13	1.62
=. West Ham	13	1.62
19. Sheffield Wed	20	2.50
20. Barnsley	21	2.62

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. *C Palace*	25	0
2. Coventry	18	1
=. Leeds Utd	18	1
=. Tottenham	18	1
5. Chelsea	16	2
=. Sheffield Wed	16	2
7. Arsenal	18	0
8. Everton	15	2
9. Bolton	16	1
=. Manchester Utd	16	1
11. Southampton	17	0
12. Blackburn	14	2
13. West Ham	16	0
14. Wimbledon	15	0
15. Leicester	14	0
16. Barnsley	13	0
17. Liverpool	11	0
18. Newcastle	9	1
19. Derby	10	0
20. Aston Villa	7	0

OFFENDERS

By team	Cards/players
Arsenal	*4Y Bergkamp, Bould*
Aston Villa	3Y Taylor
Barnsley	4Y Sheridan
Blackburn	2Y+1R Valery
Bolton	3Y (3 players)
Chelsea	5Y Wise
Coventry	6Y Williams
C Palace	5Y Tuttle
Derby	2Y (3 players)
Everton	4Y+1R Bilic
Leeds Utd	3Y Molenaar
Leicester	3Y Heskey, Lennon
Liverpool	3Y Ince
Man Utd	3Y (4 players)
Newcastle	2Y+1R Batty
Sheff Wed	2Y+1R Carbone
Southampton	2Y (3 players)
Tottenham	4Y+1R Edinburgh
West Ham	3Y Moncur, Lomas
Wimbledon	3Y Kimble

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Cards issued Red
1. S Dunn	3	18	1
2. G Willard	5	29	2
3. P Durkin	5	25	2
4. M Bodenham	5	23	0
5. U Rennie	4	17	0
6. M Riley	4	15	1
7. P Alcock	4	16	0
8. G Ashby	3	12	0
9. G Barber	5	18	1
10. P Jones	5	15	2
11. G Poll	6	18	1
12. D Gallagher	5	15	1
13. J Winter	5	14	1
14. D Elleray	4	12	0
15. M Reed	2	5	1
16. K Burge	5	14	0
17. A Wilkie	6	14	1
18. N Barry	5	12	0
19. S Lodge	5	10	0

SCORERS

	Goals
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	8
Wright (Arsenal)	8
Sutton (Blackburn)	8
Gallacher (Blackburn)	6
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	5
Hartson (West Ham)	5
Wallace (Leeds)	5
Baiano (Derby)	4
Dublin (Coventry)	4
Overmars (Arsenal)	4
Vialli (Chelsea)	4

Players on three goals: Berkovic (West Ham); Blake (Bolton); Davies (Southampton); Ekoku (Wimbledon); Ferdinand (Tottenham); M Hughes (Chelsea); Lombardo (Crystal Palace); Petrescu (Chelsea); Poyet (Chelsea); Redfearn (Barnsley); Riedle (Liverpool); Speed (Everton); Walsh (Leicester); Yorke (Aston Villa).

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	14	8
Aston Villa	3	7
Barnsley	4	3
Blackburn	15	4
Bolton	5	3
Chelsea	12	10
Coventry	5	3
Crystal Palace	5	4
Derby	7	7
Everton	3	7
Leeds Utd	9	2
Leicester	4	9
Liverpool	2	10
Manchester Utd	4	8
Newcastle	4	2
Sheffield Wed	6	5
Southampton	2	3
Tottenham	2	4
West Ham	4	8
Wimbledon	2	8

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
Arsenal	37,894	98
Aston Villa	35,907	91
Barnsley	18,561	100
Blackburn	22,881	73
Bolton	23,855	95
Chelsea	31,528	100
Coventry	18,439	78
Crystal Palace	21,429	81
Derby	26,895	90
Everton	35,653	89
Leeds	35,283	88
Leicester	20,644	96
Liverpool	34,852	100
Manchester Utd	55,078	98
Newcastle	36,681	100
Sheffield Wed	24,962	63
Southampton	15,168	99
Tottenham	26,279	79
West Ham	25,416	98
Wimbledon	16,852	64

AWAY

Attendance	P	Average
Arsenal	5	28,559
Aston Villa	5	27,379
Barnsley	4	22,277
Blackburn	4	26,114
Bolton	5	21,154
Chelsea	5	28,888
Coventry	4	33,143
Crystal Palace	5	22,494
Derby	4	26,820
Everton	3	29,221
Leeds	4	26,901
Leicester	4	27,035
Liverpool	5	27,446
Manchester Utd	5	30,522
Newcastle	2	28,724
Sheffield Wed	5	26,916
Southampton	4	32,325
Tottenham	4	26,893
West Ham	5	32,878
Wimbledon	3	29,131

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites	
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise tickets still available

TODAY

FA Carling Premiership

(1) † Arsenal v Barnsley
(2) † Bolton v Aston Villa
(3) Coventry v Leeds
(4) † Man Utd v Crystal Palace
(5) † Newcastle v Tottenham
(6) Sheff Wed v Everton
(7) † Southampton v West Ham
(8) Wimbledon v Blackburn

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Birmingham v Crewe
(10) Bradford v Wolverhampton
(11) Ipswich v Man City
(12) Queens Park Rangers v Charlton
(13) Reading v Sunderland
(14) *Stockport v Portsmouth*
(15) Stoke v Bury
(16) Swindon v Port Vale
(17) Tranmere v Norwich
(18) West Bromwich v Oxford Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Nottm For	9	6	1	2	13	5	19
West Brom	9	5	3	1	11	7	18
QPR	9	5	1	3	11	12	16
Bradford	9	4	3	2	12	13	15
Sheff Utd	7	4	3	0	9	3	15
Swindon	9	4	3	2	9	11	15
Birmingham	8	4	2	2	12	6	14
Middlesbro	7	4	2	1	12	7	14
Port Vale	9	4	2	3	11	9	14
Charlton	8	4	1	3	16	12	13
Sunderland	9	4	1	4	14	11	13
Wolves	9	3	4	2	12	10	13
Norwich	9	4	1	4	8	15	13
Bury	9	2	5	2	9	11	11
Stoke	8	3	2	3	7	8	11
Man City	8	2	3	3	16	12	9
Stockport	9	2	3	4	13	12	9
Crewe	8	3	0	5	12	14	9
Portsmouth	9	2	2	5	11	14	8
Tranmere	9	2	1	6	12	14	7
Oxford Utd	9	2	1	6	12	15	7
Reading	9	2	1	6	6	18	7
Ipswich	7	1	3	3	9	11	6
* Huddersfield	8	0	4	4	5	12	4

** not including last night's match*

Second division

(19) Bristol Rovers v Wrexham
(20) Burnley v Wycombe
(21) Chesterfield v Bournemouth
(22) Fulham v Oldham
(23) Gillingham v Bristol City
(24) Grimsby v Wigan
(25) *Luton v Watford*
(26) Millwall v Blackpool
(27) Preston v Brentford
(28) Southend v Northampton
(29) Walsall v Carlisle
(30) York v Plymouth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	9	6	2	1	14	8	20
Northampton	9	6	2	1	12	5	20
Chesterfield	9	4	4	1	10	6	16
Oldham	9	3	5	1	16	14	14
Bristol Rov	9	3	5	1	13	9	14
Wigan	9	4	1	4	14	12	13
Blackpool	9	4	1	4	14	17	13
Preston	9	3	4	2	9	6	13
Wycombe	9	3	3	3	15	15	12
Millwall	7	4	0	3	12	8	12
Bournemouth	9	3	3	3	10	8	12
Gillingham	9	3	3	3	10	11	12
Brentford	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
Wrexham	8	3	2	3	15	12	11
Bristol City	8	3	2	3	12	8	11
Carlisle	9	3	2	4	12	14	11
York	9	3	2	4	10	12	11
Fulham	9	3	2	4	7	8	11
Southend	9	3	1	5	9	16	10
Grimsby	9	2	4	3	7	9	10
Plymouth	9	1	6	2	9	11	9
Walsall	9	2	2	5	9	13	8
Luton	9	1	3	5	5	14	6
Burnley	9	0	4	5	3	9	4

Third division

(31) Cardiff v Barnet
(32) Chester v Hartlepool
(33) Doncaster v Brighton
(34) Exeter v Scarborough
(35) *Hull v Torquay*
(36) Leyton Orient v Macclesfield
(37) Lincoln v Cambridge Utd
(38) Mansfield v Colchester
(39) Notts County v Darlington
(—) Peterborough v Swansea
(—) Rochdale v Scunthorpe
(—) Shrewsbury v Rotherham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	9	6	2	1	15	8	20
Exeter	9	6	2	1	13	7	20
Scunthorpe	9	6	1	2	10	6	19
Peterborough	9	5	3	1	21	8	18
Camb Utd	9	4	3	2	16	12	15
Macclesfield	9	4	3	2	13	8	15
Hartlepool	9	3	5	1	13	9	14
Barnet	9	4	2	3	13	13	14
Colchester	9	4	2	3	13	13	14
Scarborough	9	4	2	3	12	11	14
Lincoln	9	4	2	3	10	11	14
Chester	9	4	1	4	13	13	13
Cardiff	9	3	4	2	11	11	13
Torquay	9	4	1	4	11	11	13
L Orient	9	4	1	4	9	8	13
Rotherham	9	3	3	3	16	15	12
Mansfield	9	3	2	4	10	8	11
Swansea	9	3	1	5	12	17	10
Rochdale	9	3	0	6	10	12	9
Shrewsbury	9	2	1	6	11	16	7
Darlington	9	1	4	4	8	11	7
Brighton	9	1	3	5	7	14	6
Hull	9	1	1	7	8	18	4
Doncaster	9	0	3	6	4	19	3

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Cheltenham v Northwich
(—) Farnborough v Hayes
(—) Halifax v Kettering
(—) Hednesford v Kidderminster
(—) Leek v Slough
(—) Morecambe v Dover
(—) Rushden and Diamonds v Woking
(—) Stalybridge v Yeovil
(—) *Stevenage v Gateshead*
(—) Telford v Hereford
(—) Welling v Southport

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Celtic v Kilmarnock
(41) Dunfermline v Dundee Utd
(42) Hibernian v Rangers
(43) Motherwell v Hearts
(44) St Johnstone v Aberdeen

First division

(45) Ayr v Stirling
(46) Dundee v Airdrie
(47) Greenock Morton v Raith
(48) Hamilton v St Mirren
(49) Partick v Falkirk

Second division

(—) Clyde v Livingston
(—) Clydebank v Stranraer
(—) East Fife v Queen of South
(—) Forfar v Inverness CT
(—) Stenhousemuir v Brechin

Third division

(—) Arbroath v Albion
(—) Berwick v Cowdenbeath
(—) East Stirling v Dumbarton
(—) Queen's Park v Montrose
(—) Ross County v Alloa

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Dorchester; Atherstone v Hastings; Bromsgrove v Cambridge City; Burton Albion v Sittingbourne; Crawley v Forest Green; Gloucester v King's Lynn; Gresley v Bath; Merthyr v Halesowen; Rothwell v Worcester City; Salisbury v Tamworth; St Leonards v Nuneaton. **Midland division:** Bilston v RC Warwick; Corby v VS Rugby; Evesham v Paget R; Grantham v Raunds T; Ilkeston v Brackley Town; Redditch v Blakenall; Solihull Boro v Stourbridge; Stafford v Shepshed D; Sutton Coldfield Town v Hinckley Utd; Wisbech Town v Bedworth. **Southern division:** Baldock v Yate; Bashley v Tonbridge Angels; Cinderford v Dartford; Clevedon v Margate; Fareham v Weston-super-Mare; Fisher London v Newport AFC; Havant v Cirencester Town; Newport (IoW) v Erith and Belvedere; Trowbridge v Fleet T; Waterlooville v Witney; Weymouth v Chelmsford.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Boston; Barrow v Spennymoor; Bishop Auckland v Hyde; Blyth Spartans v Winsford; Colwyn Bay v Guiseley; Emley v Chorley; Gainsborough v Radcliffe; Lancaster v Altrincham; Leigh RMI v Frickley; Marine v Alfreton; Runcorn v Bamber Bridge. **First division:** Congleton v Belper Town; Farsley Celtic v Matlock Town; Gretna v Lincoln United; Harrogate Town v Great Harwood; *Netherfield v Eastwood Town*; Stocksbridge PS v Flixton; Trafford v Whitby; Whitley Bay v Droylsden; [illegible] Albion v Bradford Pk Ave; Workington v [illegible]; Worksop v Ashton United.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood v Oxford City; Bromley v Purfleet; Dagenham and Redbridge v Chesham; Enfield v Bishop's Stortford; Gravesend and Northfleet v Carshalton; Harrow v St Albans; Hendon v Kingstonian; Heybridge v Basingstoke; Hitchin v Dulwich; Sutton United v Walton and Hersham; Yeading v Aylesbury. **First division:** Abingdon Town v Grays; Aldershot Town v Leatherhead; Barton Rovers v Molesey; Berkhamsted v Bognor Regis; Billericay v Wokingham; Hampton v Romford; Leyton Pennant v Wembley; *Maidenhead v Uxbridge; Staines v Whyteleafe*; Thame Utd v Chertsey; Worthing v Croydon. **Second division:** Banstead v Marlow; Canvey Island v Horsham; Met Police v Northwood; Tooting and Mitcham v Wivenhoe. **Third division:** Hertford v Hornchurch.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH FA CUP. Qualifying round: Peterhead v Huntly; Elgin v Lossiemouth; Deveronvale v Buckie Thistle; Fraserburgh v Fort William; Annan v Coldstream; Vale of Leithen v Civil Service Strollers; Whitehill W v Selkirk; Girvan v Edinburgh Univ.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Ynys Mon v Barry (2.30); Connah's Quay v Caersws (2.30); Conwy v Aberystwyth (2.0); Flint Town v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30); Haverfordwest v Caernarfon (2.30); Newtown v Bangor City (2.30); Porthmadog v Cwmbran *(2.30)*; *Rhayader Town v Welshpool (2.30)*; Rhyl v Ebbw Vale (2.0); TNS v Carmarthen Town (2.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Glenavon; Glentoran v Cliftonville; Linfield v Coleraine; Omagh v Crusaders; Portadown v Ballymena. **First division:** Bangor v Ballyclare; Carrick v Dungannon Swifts; Distillery v Larne; Limavady Utd v Newry.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v Bohemians (7.30); Kilkenny v Shamrock (7.30).

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Forres Mechanics; Clachnacuddin v Wick Academy.

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

† Liverpool v Chelsea (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

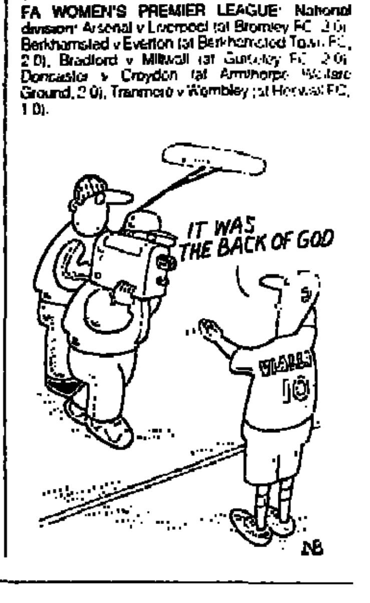
Middlesbrough v Sheffield Utd (1.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Ath v UCD (2.30).

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal v Liverpool (at Bromley FC, 2.0); Berkhamsted v Everton (at Berkhamsted Town FC, 2.0); Bradford v Millwall (at Guiseley FC, 2.0); *Doncaster v Croydon (at Armthorpe Welfare Ground, 2.0)*; Tranmere v Wembley (at Heswall FC, 1.0).

BROADCASTING

BBC1: Today: *Football Focus*, 12.20pm, *Match of the Day*, 10.50pm
BBC RADIO 5 LIVE: Today: Live commentary (tbc) in *Sport on 5*, from 1.05pm. Tomorrow: Middlesbrough v Sheffield United and Liverpool v Chelsea (live) in *Sunday Sport*, from 1pm
SKY SPORTS: Today: 2: Soccer AM, from 8am. 3: Spanish league. Athletic Bilbao v Real Sociedad (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: 1: Liverpool v Chelsea (live), from 3pm. 2: Middlesbrough v Sheffield United (live), from 12pm (highlights at 12.30am). 3: Highlights of Liverpool v Chelsea, from 9.30pm; Spanish league (including Real Madrid v Deportivo La Coruña), from 11pm.


IT WAS THE BACK OF GOD
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Statistics compiled by Julian Desborou

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RUGBY LEAGUE: BULLS OUTCLASSED AGAIN BY RAMPANT AUCKLAND IN WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Bradford endure another nightmare

Auckland Warriors 62
Bradford Bulls 14

By Christopher Irvine

RECURRING nightmares are the worst sort. Only a missed conversion at the finish spared Bradford Bulls a repeat of the 64-14 scoreline between the sides at Ericsson Stadium, 2½ months before, but, in every other respect, Yesterday's re-enactment in the world club championship quarter-finals was a carbon copy.

Once more, Bradford, this time as European Super League champions, stepped on to the big stage and froze. Seven consecutive defeats in the competition — three by Auckland — are no coincidence. They were so outclassed again that even the excuses had dried up.

Mercifully, there was no more talk by Matthew Elliott, the Bulls' coach, of "learning curves", because Bradford had plainly failed to absorb any of the lessons from their earlier defeats. Handling mistakes proliferated as Auckland, speedier in thought and deed, punished some lame defence with 11 tries.

James Lowes, despite his inspirational qualities, made *little impact in the previous* encounter. His late withdrawal with a groin injury and Graham's filling-in as hooker denied Bradford one of their main attacking weapons, but not even Lowes's potency would have helped combat the speed of Auckland at the play-*the-ball, which overwhelmed* them.

Eight of the Auckland side were in the New Zealand team that a week before had achieved the first defeat of Australia in six years. That self-belief transmitted itself in a lustrous display, in which Jones and Ngamu slickly controlled affairs at half back. Ridge, who finished with 24 points, and the admirable Kearney brushed off Bulls like flies to lay on the opening tries by Jones, Ngamu and Hoppe.

After 39 games, nearly twice as many as Auckland, Bradford's season ground to a weary halt. In the Super League, they were unbeatable for five months, but in the club's single-minded pursuit of becoming a global force, an ill-fated world championship campaign has shown the enormous amount of ground they need to make up.

McNamara, of Bradford, tries in vain to escape the determined attentions of an Auckland opponent. Photograph: Varley Wilkinson

As Peter Sterling, the former Australia half back, observed in the television commentary: "The worst thing to happen to Bradford was half-time." In seven minutes before the break, the Bulls' Ekoku had seized on a stray pass by Betts from 30 metres and perhaps the only penetrative work by the forwards supplied Bradley with a further try.

At 20-14, Bradford were very much alive. However, tries in the first ten minutes of the second half by Malam, Logan Swann and Eru, in which the Bulls seemed simply to stop and stare, was the start of an avalanche, in which Ridge collected two tries to complement nine goals. The symmetry of the match in July would have been completed if Hoppe had converted Anthony Swann's final touchdown.

SCORERS: Auckland: Tries: Hoppe (2), Ridge (2), Jones, Ngamu, Malam, L Swann, Eru, Ellis, A Swann. Goals: Ridge (9). Bradford: Tries: Ekoku, Bradley. Goals: McNamara (3)

AUCKLAND WARRIORS: M Ridge; L Oudenryn, A Swann, S Endacott, S Hoppe, G Ngamu, S Jones; B Malam, S Eru, J Vagana, D Betts, S Kearney, L Swann. Substitutes: M Horo, M Ellis, A Tuimavave, A Guttenbeil.

BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce; J Scales, D Peacock, K Crouthers, A Ekoku; G Bradley, R Paul, B McDermott, N Graham, P Anderson, M Forshaw, S Nickle, S McNamara. Substitutes: J Donougher, J Wittenberg, T Relhana, P Medley.

Referee: W Harrigan (Sydney)

☐ Oldham Bears have gone into voluntary liquidation, with debts of £1 million, a month after their relegation from the Super League. Players have threatened a walkout after non-payment of wages.

Broncos plan immediate dividend for Branson

By Christopher Irvine

UNDER the watchful eye of Richard Branson at The Stoop Memorial Ground tomorrow, London Broncos will attempt to deliver an instant return on their new chairman's investment by defying the odds against Cronulla Sharks in their world club championship quarter-final.

A victory for Broncos would register higher on the Richter Scale than their defeat of Canberra Raiders in the pool stages. The backlash from Cronulla's loss to Brisbane Broncos in the Australasian Super League grand final two weeks ago could result in a somewhat makeshift London side being swept away. With Shaun Edwards having returned North this week to Bradford Bulls, there is a big onus on Giles Thomas, 20, who was discovered by the Broncos while playing rugby union sevens for Bromsgrove and is described by the club as a scrum half of outstanding potential.

Terry Matterson, the London captain, said: "It isn't ideal to make your debut in a match of this sort, but then what a game to come in for. Giles could do anything. He's a good, tough young kid. Shaun's signing for Bradford is something we can't worry about."

Thomas's task is made only slightly easier by the absence of Paul Green at scrum half for Cronulla. He suffered a broken sternum in Australia's defeat last week by New Zealand. Tawera Nikau has not made the trip, but there are few perceptible weaknesses, even in a reshuffled Cronulla line-up, in which the speed and attacking perception of Mat Rogers, David Peachey and Russell Richardson are paramount.

After the grand final loss and the one by Australia in Auckland, John Lang, the Cronulla and Australia Super League team coach, has a double incentive to progress in the world club championship, as has Andrew Ettingshausen, the veteran centre, who played in both defeats. "The grand final was a let-down, but we've had enough time to get over that and we're in good shape," Ettingshausen said. "We've seen London play several times and they achieved a wonderful second place in the European League, so they'll be tough opposition.

"They play a structured game. Shaun Edwards has added a lot of creativity this season, but I'm sure they'll carry on without him in the way they've been playing. We're not expecting an easy game, but we're sure we can win."

Whatever the results, Matterson believes that the arrival of Branson and the backing by his Virgin business empire holds out enormous promise for the Broncos. "The club will be marketed more efficiently and I think that his organisation has so much that it can bring to the club, and not just money, although it's no secret that we need to go into the market for more players," he said.

Brisbane, odds-on favourites to secure the world club title, should have no difficulty against St Helens, whose 100-1 price reflects the size of their task today at the ANZ Stadium. No Australian side has lived with Brisbane this season.

Without the suspended Bobbie Goulding and Keiron Cunningham, who has had a hernia operation, Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, is the one person who has refused to write off his side.

SNOOKER

Bond holds off world champion to reach semi-finals

By Phil Yates

NIGEL BOND, who has been a master of brinkmanship this week, survived a spirited fightback by Ken Doherty, the world champion, to record a surprise 6-5 victory in the quarter-finals of the Regal Scottish Masters at Motherwell yesterday.

Having won the tournament in 1993 and 1994, Doherty was confident of enjoying another extended run, but Bond, who was himself given a boost by beating Steve Davis 5-4 in the previous round, competed tenaciously from the outset.

The match came alive at 2-2. Bond, runner-up in the 1995 world championship, won the fifth frame after a protracted safety exchange with a 76 break and, crucially, stole the sixth by a single point on the black with a 47 clearance.

There was a virtual replay in the next frame, when Doherty, on a run of 57 and 46 points, missed a red. Again Bond took advantage of the scoring opportunity by scoring a 57 clearance to move 5-2 ahead. At that stage, Doherty looked on his way out of the tournament.

No player wins the world championship without possessing a stubborn streak, though, and this showed as Doherty recovered to trail only 5-4 thanks to breaks of 64 and 97. The Dubliner then forced a decider by gamely rallying from 45 points in arrears to win the tenth frame.

The deciding frame — as most deciding frames turn out to be — was a tense affair. Bond led 47-38 with three reds remaining when Doherty's attempted double to a middle pocket narrowly failed to find its target.

As he had done for much of the afternoon, Bond remained cool under pressure. A break of 41 enabled him to cross the winning line and earn a semi-final against John Parrott or Stephen Hendry this evening.

"I played to a pretty high standard and in some respects I thought I was the better player," Doherty said. "It was one of those days when frames just kept slipping away."

In the second quarter-final, on Thursday night, John Higgins overcame early problems to beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2, winning five frames in a row after trailing 2-1. Higgins now meets Alan McManus today, guaranteeing a Scottish presence in the best-of-17-frame final tomorrow.

FIXTURES

Today

RUGBY LEAGUE

World club championship
Quarter-final

Brisbane v St Helens (10.30am)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE (all kick-offs 2.30): Premier division: Dudley Hill v Askam; Egremont v Lock Lane; Leigh Miners v Haworth; Saddleworth v Beverley; West Hull v Oldham St Annes; Wigan St Patricks v Walney Central; Woolston v Mayfield. First division: Blackbrook v Skirlaugh; Eastmoor v East Leeds; Milford v Wigan St Judes; Millom v Oulton; Redhill v Barrow Island; Shaw Cross v Leigh East; Thornhill v Moldgreen. Second division: Dewsbury Moor v Eccles; Dodworth v Siddal; London Students v York Acorn (at N River Stadium, Tottenham); New Earswick v Hull Dockers; Normanton v Crosfields; Ovenden v Featherstone Amateur.

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipswich v Hightown (noon); Slough v Clifton (noon); Sutton Coldfield v Olton (11.30); Trojans v Doncaster (1.30). First division: Bracknell v Bradford (2.0); Canterbury v Wimbledon (noon); Chelmsford v Loughborough Students (2.15); Leicester v Bedens (12.30). Second division: Blueharts v Aldridge (12.30); Ealing v Sherwood (1.30); Old Loughtonians v West Witney (1.0); Poynton v Woking (1.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Newcastle Eagles (7.30); Birmingham Bullets v London Towers (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Watford Royals (8.0); Worthing Bears v Derby Storm (8.0).

BOXING: World Boxing Council heavyweight championship: L Lewis (GB, holder) v A Golota (Pol) (in Atlantic City). World Boxing Organisation light-heavyweight championship: D Michalczewski (Ger, holder) v N Piper (Cardiff). World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight championship: R Rocchigiani (Ger, holder) v C Thompson (Manchester) (in Hanover). World Boxing Organisation light-welterweight championship: G Parisi (It, holder) v N Wenton (Liverpool) (in Rome). European lightweight championship: C Ashley (Leeds, holder) v O Klemetsen (Nor); European super-bantamweight championship: S Oliver (Barnet, holder) v Hyvchka–Horian (Russ) (at Alexandra Palace, London)

CYCLING: North Bucks (10 miles, Milton Keynes, 2.0).

GOLF: Central England open mixed foursomes *(at Woodhall Spa)*

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Manchester Storm v Cardiff Devils (7.0); Nottingham Panthers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0); Basingstoke Bison v Sheffield Steelers (6.30).

SPEEDWAY: Craven Shield: First round, first leg: Bradford v Coventry (7.30); Eastbourne v Wolverhampton (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Oxford (6.30). Amateur League: Berwick v Oxford (8.0)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham)

Tomorrow

RUGBY LEAGUE

World club championship
Quarter-final

London v Cronulla (3.0)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston v Southgate (at Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Doncaster v Reading (at Bennetthorpe, 2.0); East Grinstead v Canterbury (at Saint Hill, 2.30); Guildford v Hounslow (at Kings Manor School, noon). Old Loughtonians v Cannock (at Chigwell, 1.30); Teddington v Barford Tigers (at Teddington School, 1.30). First division: Hampstead and Westminster v Oxford University (at Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30); Havant v Gloucester City (at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, 2.0); Hull v Chelmsford (at Danepark Road, 2.0). Indian Gymkhana v Blueharts (at Thornbury Avenue, Isleworth, 2.0); Isca v Bournville (at Exeter School, 12.30); Lewes v Bromley (at Southdown Club, 1.30); Loughborough Students v Brooklyns (at Loughborough University, 2.30); Sheffield v Surbiton (at Abbeydale Park, 2.30); St Albans v Oxford Hawks (at Clarence Park, 2.0); Stourport v Firebrands (at Kidderminster School, 2.30). Warrington v Harleston Magpies (at Penketh County School, 1.30).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Great South Run (Portsmouth).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Thames Valley Tigers (5.30); Manchester Giants v Leicester Riders (6.30); Sheffield Sharks v Worthing Bears (6.0).

CYCLING: Merseyside Wheelers Invitation (28 miles, Delamere, 9.0am).

GOLF: Central England open mixed foursomes (at Woodhall Spa).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Cobras (6.30); Bracknell Bees v Nottingham Panthers (6.0); Cardiff Devils v Basingstoke Bison (6.0).

SPEEDWAY: Young Shield: First round, first leg: Newcastle v Exeter (6.30). Second leg: Glasgow v Edinburgh (3.0). Challenge: Newport v Arena Essex (2.30). Amateur League: Buxton v Ipswich and King's Lynn (3.0)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham).

RUGBY UNION FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

TODAY

Heineken Cup
Pool A

Leicester v Toulouse (2.15)
Leinster v Milan
(at Donnybrook)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toulouse	4	3	0	1	139	80	6
Leicester	4	3	0	1	104	65	6
Leinster	4	1	0	3	95	123	2
Milan	4	1	0	3	76	146	2

Pool B

Swansea v Glasgow (2.30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Wasps	4	4	0	0	176	55	8
Glasgow	4	2	0	2	80	122	4
Swansea	4	1	0	3	99	110	2
* Ulster	4	1	0	3	59	127	2

* *not including last night's match*

Pool C

Pontypridd v Scottish Borders (2.15)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	4	4	0	0	106	60	8
Brive	4	2	1	1	142	105	5
Pontypridd	4	1	1	2	98	98	3
Scottish Bord	4	0	0	4	74	137	0

Pool D

Bourgoin v Munster (2.0)
Harlequins v Cardiff

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harlequins	4	4	0	0	151	86	8
Cardiff	4	2	0	2	126	109	4
Munster	4	1	0	3	112	143	2
Bourgoin	4	1	0	3	66	117	2

Pool E

Treviso v Llanelli (2.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pau	4	3	0	1	123	52	6
Llanelli	4	3	0	1	88	90	6
Treviso	4	1	0	3	97	81	2
Caledonia	4	1	0	3	49	134	2

European Conference
Pool A

Ebbw Vale v La Rochelle (2.0)

Pool B

Newport v Sale (2.0)

Pool C

London Irish v Farul Constanta

Pool D

Connacht v Bègles
(at Sports Ground, Galway)
Nice v Northampton (7.0)

Pool E

Colomiers v Bridgend
Grenoble v Richmond

Pool F

Gloucester v Béziers

Pool H

Neath v Saracens (6.0)

Allied Dunbar Premiership
Second division

Bedford v Waterloo
Blackheath v Coventry
Exeter v West Hartlepool
Orrell v Fylde
Rotherham v London Scottish
Wakefield v Moseley

Tetley's Bitter Cup
Second round

Aspatria v Widnes
Birmingham/Solihull v Otley
Bracknell v Met Police
Broadstreet v Huddersfield
Cheltenham v Sevenoaks
Havant v Matson
Haywards Heath v Launceston
Henley v Camberley
Kendal v Harrogate
Lewes v North Walsham
London Welsh v Clifton
Lydney v Amersham and Chiltern
Morley v Selly Oak
Northern v Tynedale
Nottingham v Doncaster
Preston Grasshoppers v Manchester
Rugby v Vagabonds (IoM)
Sandal v Nuneaton
Sheffield v Vale of Lune
St Ives v Barking
Staines v Banbury
Stourbridge v Taunton
Tabard v Rosslyn Park
Weston-super-Mare v Newbury
Wharfedale v Wigton
Winchester v Reading
Winnington Park v Liverpool St Helens
Worcester v Leeds

Welsh League
First division

Blackwood v Pontypool (2.0)
Bonymaen v Aberavon (2.0)
Caerphilly v Treorchy (2.0)
Cross Keys v Abertillery (2.0)
Llandovery v Maesteg (2.0)
Merthyr v Cardiff Inst (2.0)
Rumney v Newbridge (2.0)
South Wales Police v Dunvant (2.0)

SECOND DIVISION: Llanharan v Whitland, Pyle v Mountain Ash; Tenby Utd v St Peter's; Tondu v Narberth, Tredegar v Kenfig Hill, Ystradgynlais v Abercynon

SRU League Trophy
Group A

Currie v Hawick
Edinburgh Acads v Glasgow Hawks
Gala v Melrose
Kirkcaldy v Preston Lodge
Musselburgh v Heriot's FP

Group B

Boroughmuir v Jed-Forest
Kilmarnock v Kelso
Peebles v Biggar
Stirling County v Dundee HSFP
Watsonians v West of Scotland

Group C

Glenrothes v Grangemouth
Stewart's Melville FP v Gordonians

Group D

Ayr v Hillhead/Jordanhill
Glasgow Southern v Stewartry

TOMORROW

Heineken Cup
Pool C

Brive v Bath (1.10)

Pool E

Caledonia v Pau
(at McDiarmid Park, Perth)

European Conference
Pool G

Newcastle v Edinburgh

TELEVISION

TODAY: Sky Sports 2: Leicester v Toulouse, Harlequins v Cardiff (from 2pm). Sky Sports 3: Rugby Union Update (9.30pm).

TOMORROW: Sky Sports 1: Rugby Union Update (12pm).

RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

LEADING PLAYERS IN EUROPE

TOP POINTS-SCORERS

		Lge	Eur	Rep	Int	Total
1	L Labit (Colomiers)	58	72	—	—	130
2	L Jarvis (Cardiff)	45	81	—	2	128
3	J Valls (Narbonne)	42	70	—	—	112
4	J-F Bourne (La Rochelle)	45	57	—	—	102
5	A Thomas (Swansea)	30	44	—	23	97
6	T Stimpson (Newcastle)	10	79	—	—	89
	E Elwood (Lansdowne)	—	62	27	—	89
	T Castaignede (Castres)	42	47	—	—	89
9	S Laing (Portadown)	—	39	49	—	88
10	*T Lacroix (Harlequins)*	*26*	*59*	—	—	*85*

TOP TRY-SCORERS

		Lge	Eur	Rep	Int	Total
1	D Bory (Montferrand)	3	6	—	—	9
2	K Logan (Wasps)	1	7	—	—	8
	E Bolobolo (Stade Français)	2	6	—	—	8
4	M Dawson (Northampton)	1	5	—	—	6
	X Garbajosa (Toulouse)	1	5	—	—	6
	M Biboulet (Colomiers)	2	4	—	—	6

5 tries: S Dominici (Stade Français), D James (Pontypridd), S Peysson (Colomiers), J Williams (Harlequins), P Arletaz (Narbonne), C Haymans (Agen), T Dispagne (Toulouse), G Wyatt (Pontypridd), V *Tuigamala (Newcastle), M Moore (Sale)*

TOP TEAMS

TRIES PER MATCH

	P	Tries	Avge
1 Stade Français	7	49	7.00
2 Wasps	5	27	5.40
3 Richmond	5	25	5.00
4 Newcastle	5	23	4.60
5 Toulouse	7	28	4.00
6 Swansea	6	23	3.83
7 Colomiers	7	26	3.71
8 Montferrand	7	24	3.43
9 Harlequins	6	20	3.33
Pontypridd	6	20	3.33

POINTS PER MATCH

	P	Pts	Avge
1 Stade Français	7	364	52.00
2 Wasps	5	214	42.80
3 Colomiers	7	258	36.86
4 Newcastle	5	184	36.80
5 Richmond	5	174	35.80
6 Harlequins	6	197	32.83
7 Cardiff	6	191	31.83
8 Toulouse	7	222	31.71
9 Brive	7	216	30.86
10 Swansea	6	184	30.67

DEFENCES

FEWEST TRIES CONCEDED

	P	Tries	Avge
1 Newcastle	5	4	0.80
2 Begles	7	6	0.86
Narbonne	7	6	0.86
4 Toulon	7	7	1.00
5 Biarritz	7	9	1.28
Pau	7	9	1.28
7 Richmond	5	7	1.40
8 Agen	7	11	1.57
Montferrand	7	11	1.57
10 Leicester	5	8	1.60

MOST TRIES CONCEDED

	P	Tries	Avge
1 Neath	6	42	7.00
2 Newport	6	33	5.50
3 Bridgend	6	26	4.33
4 Ebbw Vale	6	24	4.00
5 Grenoble	7	26	3.71
6 Bristol	6	20	3.33
7 London Irish	6	17	2.83
9 Dax	7	19	2.71
9 Brive, La Rochelle Montpellier, Nice	7	18	2.57

WINNERS

	P	W	L	%
1 Stade Français	7	7	0	100.00
Newcastle	5	5	0	100.00
Richmond	5	5	0	100.00
Wasps	5	5	0	100.00
5 Colomiers	7	6	1	85.71
Toulouse	7	6	1	85.71
7 Bath	6	5	1	83.33
Harlequins	6	5	1	83.33
9 Leicester	5	4	1	80.00
Saracens	5	4	1	80.00

LOSERS

	P	W	D	L	%
1 Neath	6	0	0	6	0.00
2 Grenoble	7	0	1	6	7.14
3 Montpellier	7	1	0	6	14.28
4 Ebbw Vale	6	1	0	5	16.67
Newport	6	1	0	5	16.67
6 Béziers	7	1	1	5	21.43
7 Bourgoin	7	2	0	5	28.57
La Rochelle	7	2	0	5	28.57
9 Bristol	6	2	0	4	33.33
London Irish	6	2	0	4	32.33

* Figures for players from top-division clubs in England, France, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Fixtures included: domestic leagues, Heineken Cup and European Conference (excluding last night), representative and international matches.

■ *Compiled by Stephen McCormack*

SHINTY

Kingussie threaten hefty score

By Coll Macdougall

ALL four matches in the Marine Harvest Premier League are classed as derbys, but some more seriously than others. The most contentious is at the Dell, where Kingussie, champions for the past two seasons and holders of the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup, take on near neighbours, Newtonmore.

This meeting is all the more serious because, in their last meeting, the final of the Camanachd Cup, Kingussie *won by the record score of* 12-1. Nothing suggests that the outcome will be much different today.

Kingussie have opened the new season with substantial victories over Oban Camanachd, Inveraray and Glenorchy and seem set to proceed unimpeded to retain all their silverware.

Inveraray, despite having a powerful, balanced side, will have considerable difficulty in coping with Glenorchy.

Fort William and Glenurquhart meet at An Aird in a confrontation that should see the Lochaber side victorious. Despite their failure to play to their full potential over the past two weeks, they have by far the more skilled and talented side.

Glenurquhart, while doing enough to snatch the odd point on occasions, are not a side of any great ability and do not have pretentions to challenge for big awards.

Oban Camanachd, still a makeshift side because of long-term suspensions, will struggle against Kyles Athletic at Mossfield Stadium.

► REWARDING TIMES ◄

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Don't worry if you missed checking your Portfolio card numbers in *The Times* any day this week. Our computer has worked out the total changes over the past five days *for each of the eight numbers* on your card, Monday to Friday inclusive. The totals for each number are listed right.

Simply find the total changes to date for the eight numbers on your card on the panel, right, and add them to the totals you get on today's daily dividend on page 26. Then see *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. If your seven-day total exactly equals the accumulator dividend in *The Sunday Times* you win or share the £20,000 prize.

To check your companies' movements for today's game see the Equity Prices, page 26.

● To date 44 readers have shared £45,000 worth of cash prizes playing New Portfolio.

Number on card	Change to date	Number on card	Change to date
1	+25	23	+18
2	+21	24	+17
3	+22	25	+24
4	+24	26	+25
5	+21	27	+22
6	+22	28	+23
7	+17	29	+16
8	+24	30	+24
9	+26	31	+20
10	+19	32	+21
11	+17	33	+16
12	+22	34	+20
13	+22	35	+24
14	+25	36	+18
15	+22	37	+24
16	+16	38	+25
17	+26	39	+22
18	+16	40	+23
19	+26	41	+24
20	+19	42	+16
21	+22	43	+24
22	+23	44	+23

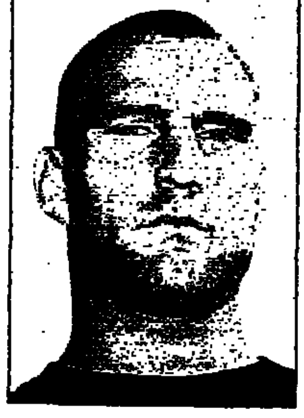
THE TIMES

هكذا من الإصل

Right time to catch the continental drift

The development of a European dimension to British rugby offers an important staging post on the road to success at international level

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



Not a good start to the week for me — at least on the golf course. We organised our own Ryder Cup at Wasps on Monday and we drew names out of a hat: I was Scott Hoch, the least popular man on the Tour. Typical. We had T-shirts printed up with all the names on the back. I played with Gareth Rees — alias Jeff Maggert — and we were up against Pat Fox, our fitness coach, who was Nick Faldo, and Rob Henderson, who was Lee Westwood. We lost 2 and 1: and Europe beat the United States again. There was a huge amount of banter — being Scott Hoch they thought I would be easily wound up.

We were getting a bit desperate near the end: we were making them hole out from 12 inches! It was hugely enjoyable and only adds to team spirit, which is a fundamental part of our success. Afterwards we all went out for an evening of fun. Professional rugby is all about keeping a balance, knowing when it's time to work and when it's time to play.

Talking of Europe, I do believe the Heineken Cup will become the premier tournament in the northern hemisphere. There is a danger that league rugby can get a bit stale, but the Heineken Cup gives us a new environment and the creation of a European super league is the way the game is going to go forward in the future. Europe asks different questions of players, both on the physical and mental side, and the really big games offer that step up between club and international level.

It also has its amusing moments, as Kenny Logan found out. Playing against Glasgow last week he made a break and was almost clear when Derek Stark — his former Glasgow team-mate — shouted: "Use me Kenny." He did, by instinctively passing straight to him. Kenny immediately burst out laughing, but the referee didn't see the funny side and penalised Stark.

'We need to *maintain* respect for referees'

Generally, standards in Europe have risen among the English clubs where professionalism is starting to pay dividends. It's gone well for Wasps so far and we have learnt from last season — from the Munster game, for instance, when we came unstuck. We didn't take into account their proud tradition, the fact that they'd beaten the All Blacks there at Thomond Park. We won't make the same mistake twice, and were determined not to against Ulster at Ravenhill last night. It was an evening kick-off, which we aren't used to on a regular basis, so already your rhythms and rituals have changed. But these are the challenges you face and have to overcome. I have also had to contend with my baby daughter, Ella, who woke up at 5 o'clock in the morning on Thursday — which isn't the ideal way to prepare!

Club England is now up and running, and although it is still in its early stages the general feeling is very positive. Last year we all felt that England should be the most professional team and that that feeling should permeate down through the clubs. That didn't happen, but it is changing now and at quite a rate. The structure is now in place for England to be more successful. The players want the relationship between their clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to move forward. We don't want a repeat of last season. There has to be agreement with regard to issues of release of players and contractual obligations, and obviously payment comes into that.

There have been rumours of players being contracted to Twickenham, but I can't see a situation where I am an England player first and a Wasps player second. We have a club-based rugby culture and the only way to get picked for England is to play consistently well for your club. One of the reasons for the success of the Lions was that clubs prepared their players correctly. The Union recognises that, and what we are seeing now is that rather than working against each other, they — the clubs and the RFU — are working in tandem. The management team have been, and are, involved at club level: these aren't people who are out of touch. They know exactly what is happening at the clubs and they know how sensitive the issues have been.

Referees are also a sensitive issue at the moment. They have an extremely hard job and in a televised game their decisions are analysed down to the smallest detail. That said, however, we are getting to the situation where we can learn from other sports where referees could be given some sort of assistance — whether it be a third umpire in the in-goal area or via a greater contribution from touch judges. But we need to maintain respect for referees and it is important that players appreciate that they can't control the way the referee will control a game: but you can control your own performance. At Wasps, we have a system whereby if players are causing referees problems and it becomes detrimental to the team then they are disciplined, either financially or by being left out of the team.

Away from rugby I am a big Chelsea fan. I follow them very closely and now they've become more professional, and they've won something under Ruud Gullit, the expectation is that much greater. Maybe we could both win in Europe this season. That would be something to celebrate.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Born and brought up in Leicestershire, Johnson still lives at England's heart today. After his success with Leicester and the British Isles, he could soon be leading the national team as well

High and mighty

Martin Johnson stands tall for club and country — and has fun while he does so

DAVID HANDS

He may have found difficulty squeezing into the go-kart team that took to the track for the British Isles in South Africa during the summer, but Thursday evenings find Martin Johnson curled up in front of *Top Gear*. "I'm not a car freak," the Lions captain will tell you, "but Jeremy Clarkson's quite amusing. It's a bit of fun."

It is not always easy to think of Johnson and fun in the same sentence. The beetling brows, the towering presence, the sheer physicality of the man encapsulates work, work and more work. Watch him in a game — not the obvious, the leap that betrays the world's best front-jumper in the lineout, but the rest of Johnson's game.

This, remember, is 6ft 7in and 18 stone on the hoof. At a restart, he will be first to the ball, his tackle count is phenomenal and, yes, he can run with the ball, too. It was Johnson, looking up from a ruck during the Calcutta Cup match last season, who strode through the defence and then purveyed the most delicate of passes for Andy Gomarsall to score.

This is the man Fran Cotton wanted to captain his Lions, a big, imposing player to whom even the South Africans would have to look up. England's new management may find themselves turning to him, too, though they are spoiled for choice.

Not that Johnson himself will speculate on that score. "The England job with Will [Carling] became far more than rugby," he said. "I haven't been in that position, I have never had that spotlight on me." He talks busily of the back-up teams, the specialist coaching staff who take the weight off players and you know that the spotlight is something he regards as unnecessary.

At 27, with 30 England appearances and five for the Lions on his rugby CV, he remains a private individual. This week, he was called upon to promote Carlsberg-Tetley, the new sponsors of the Rugby Football Union's knockout competition, and dutifully swung on the platform of the Tetley double-decker bus for the cameras, but you wondered whether his heart was in it.

"I don't mind, it's a bit of fun," he said. That word again — will he never stop having fun? "Some people enjoy being the centre of attention more than others."

If you seek the *bon mot* from Johnson, you will do so in vain. If, on the other hand, you look for ingrained rugby knowledge, then this inhabitant of the little Leicestershire village of Mowsley is the one.

He has not stirred far from his roots. The home he shares with Kay, whom he met in Taupo during his spell in New Zealand's King Country, is close to Market Harborough, the family home, and to Wigston, where he began his rugby career. He used to stand on the terraces at Welford Road and watched Clive Woodward strutting the stage for Leicester. Now Woodward is the England coach and Johnson one of his prime assets.

"I like playing team sports, always have," Johnson said. From this he derives his greatest satisfaction, the triumph of a collective will. "I enjoy coming off with the feeling of a job well done, from winning the tough games."

A hard man in a hard sport, none harder than the gruelling physical battles that the Lions fought in South Africa, where Johnson played through a bruised shoulder and a troublesome groin strain (which subsequently required an operation) to lead his players to an historic series victory.

"People seem to worry that I'm not a media-friendly, after-dinner speaking kind of captain, but that was never a worry for me," he said. "It's getting things right on the field that matters and playing in the games leaves you less emotional sometimes than if you are watching. You're too busy worrying about the mechanics of a game, the little details rather than the big picture.

"The best thing about South Africa was knowing that everyone was dedicated to the team winning the series. People weren't thinking about themselves, only the team's success. Not one player on the tour let themselves down." That, for Johnson, is success: not personal glory but a collection of players whose combination of skill and determination come together in an effective whole.

"Rugby's a very simple game that often gets over-complicated. If you look at football ten years ago. you find it hasn't changed that much between then and now, but rugby in that time has changed tremendously and sometimes people — and the press — don't appreciate what a team is trying to do. Rugby can be even more simple at international level — in South Africa, we had to do the basics well enough to win. That's why New Zealand are successful: they do the basics better than anyone."

Yet Johnson is not an utter devotee of the game. He has retained a connection with the Midland Bank, for whom he worked full-time before turning professional, and this week there have been three appearances on their behalf at schools as part of the flexible marketing relationship he has with them. "You can't think about rugby eight hours a day, your mind gets stale; if you were totally focused on it every waking moment, you'd be brain-dead.

"It's good to be back in the real world. The world of a professional sportsman has an unreal element to it. It's a great life, if you are successful, but the key to it is training at 100 per cent, using the time properly, then switching off when you leave the field so that you return to it fresh. There's more to life than football or rugby, there has to be a balance."

So Johnson acknowledges his debt to Midland and turns his mind to that other organisation that is so strong a part of the local community, the Leicester team he leads today against Toulouse in a bid to ensure a quarter-final place in the Heineken Cup. This is captaincy on a different scale to the Lions. This is the day-by-day contact over nine months that requires different leadership skills, to which Johnson admits he has yet to turn his full attention. It is not that the Lions experience remains a distraction — Johnson is the last man to dwell on the past.

"You use that experience to benefit the club and your own performances," he said. "The club scene is a lot bigger, you are part of the city, it's a business, there are committee meetings to attend and I'm not used to that. I've concentrated on playing as well as I can, getting back my full fitness after injury, but I understand if players find difficulty keeping focused over what is a very long season. There will be times when minds wander."

That is when Johnson's own example will act as motivation; if he allows his own standards to drop so infrequently, his team-mates will surely strive to do likewise.

There is an expectation now upon Johnson that is almost unreal too. Were he to lose a lineout ball, there would be a gasp of surprise, so seldom does he have the off-day that even the best sometimes endure. He had a rare bad day against Brive in the Heineken Cup final last January, but that will have been filed away in his memory bank under the heading: "Not to be repeated." No one is infallible but Johnson, on his own territory, comes closer than most.

England takes control

By Mark Souster

LIKE Manchester United in the European Cup Champions' League, it may have taken a season or two for English clubs to adjust to the demands of the Heineken Cup, but now they threaten a monopoly. It is a sign of their growing maturity and the benefits of professionalism that Wasps, Bath, Leicester and Harlequins are favourites to top their pools, which would allow England a dominant hand in the quarter-finals.

The picture will become clearer after the penultimate round of matches this weekend, but the prospect remains that each of the quartet could enjoy the luxury of home advantage in the last eight of a tournament the sheen of which has only partially been dulled by the violent events of three weeks ago. Before Wasps' match last night against Ulster, England's representatives had won 15 out of 16 matches, the one reverse being Leicester's defeat by Leinster.

Although both sides pledge otherwise, the fallout from the citing by Harlequins of Tony Rees, the Cardiff lock forward, and his subsequent ban, is likely to overshadow the meeting of the two dominant clubs from pool D at The Stoop this afternoon. Cardiff retaliated by unsuccessfully asking Harlequins, who need a point to be certain of winning the group, to take action against Thierry Lacroix for alleged foul play against Steve Wake, the scrum half.

For Harlequins, who have named a squad of 22, the one downside of their so far serene progress has been poor home crowds. The club hopes to address the situation with the introduction of family tickets today as well as other innovations, such as a crèche, but the late decision by BBC Wales to screen the match live will not help their cause.

Cardiff's fortunes will be bolstered by the inclusion of Robert Howley, who reported no ill-effects after his comeback against Munster last week. He partners Lee Jarvis, who, with 81 points, is the competition's leading scorer. John Tait, the Canadian lock, makes his debut.

After the defeat by Leinster, Bob Dwyer said Leicester were flying on one wing. They got back on course at Toulouse, who are the visitors to Welford Road in a match the winners of which will be in pole position in pool A. The French side, who Leicester beat at the semi-final stage last year, continue without Emile Ntamack and Christophe Deylaud. Leicester await late fitness tests on seven players — Joel Stransky, Craig Joiner, Will Greenwood, Eric Miller, Austin Healey, Neil Back and Michael Horak.

After proving his recovery from a hamstring injury in midweek, Andy Nicol, the club captain, returns for Bath at Brive, while Victor Ubogu is recalled in place of Chris Horsman at prop. Bath need a point to be certain of reaching the last eight from pool C.

Elsewhere, Swansea, the real disappointment of the tournament to date, are captained by Scott Gibbs in place of Garin Jenkins, who is injured, for the match against Glasgow, who have done far better than expected.

With their superior points difference, Pau look the only side capable of denying English clubs four home ties in the quarter-finals, the draw for which will probably be made on Monday week. They play Caledonia in pool E tomorrow and Llanelli, still smarting from the £20,000 fine from the fracas at Pau on September 13, are away to Treviso.

☐ Five of the players included in Clive Woodward's emerging England squad will be in a 30-strong party at Bisham Abbey next Wednesday when Keith Richardson, the new England Under-21 coach, takes up his post. Richardson, 54, coached England A last season, but now takes over the position formerly occupied by Woodward.

Saint-Andre under scrutiny

WHEN Philippe Saint-Andre agreed to join Gloucester during the summer, he did so on the understanding that it would not jeopardise his chances of regaining his place in the France side (Mark Souster writes). Despite their general antipathy to players who transfer abroad, the French Rugby Union have been as good as their word in his case.

This afternoon, their selectors will be at Kingsholm when Saint-Andre returns for Gloucester in their European Conference meeting with Béziers. Provided that he emerges unscathed in his first match for a month, Saint-Andre is expected to be named as the France captain for the forthcoming *Latin Cup*. Having missed most of last season with a groin injury, the 30-year-old wing belatedly made his comeback in the unexpected defeat by Italy in April. He led France for 29 successive games and is his country's most successful captain.

Gloucester must win today to stand a chance of reaching the quarter-finals from pool F. They are tied with Toulon with six points apiece, but the French side have a superior points difference.

Having maintained he would only play at fly half for Northampton, Gregor Townsend is named at full back for the encounter at Nice in pool D. Paul Grayson wears the No 10 jersey.

Tomorrow, in pool G, Newcastle should ensure a place in the last eight at the expense of Edinburgh. They have won their four games to date at a canter, averaging 41 points per match.

Welsh clubs accept challenge

WHILE the wisdom of what appears to be an already congested domestic fixture list continues to be debated elsewhere, Wales yesterday announced their involvement in a new multi-national tournament (Mark Souster writes). The inaugural Challenge Trophy will include Northern Transvaal, from South Africa; Córdoba, Rosario and Tucumán, from Argentina, and national sides from Canada, Spain and Namibia as well as the top eight Welsh clubs.

Although the final format has yet to be worked out, the tournament will be played in two phases before and after Christmas, with the Welsh clubs playing a series of domestic matches in two pools in December before the trophy is decided in January. It will have a prize fund of £300,000. The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) is staging the tournament, which is designed to fill in gaps in the fixture list after the reduction in the first division in Wales from 12 to eight clubs.

Meanwhile, the WRU yesterday announced the resignation of Richard Jasinski from his position as secretary. He is leaving after only 15 months in office to return to work in the private sector. Jasinski, 50, was one of the guiding forces behind the Millennium Stadium project.

Tom Kiernan has also stepped down as chairman of the five nations' committee to be replaced by Allan Hosie, of Scotland. Hosie, 52, a former international referee, is the present chairman of the International Rugby Football Board's Laws Committee.

هكذا من الإصل

RACING: PILSUDSKI LIKELY TO BE DISADVANTAGED BY HIGH DRAW IN LONGCHAMP SHOWPIECE

Peintre Celebre can power to Arc glory

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE Longchamp curse, which so often places British horses at a disadvantage before the stalls open for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, struck again yesterday — with our fancied runners for tomorrow's renewal again getting the worst of the draw.

It is uncanny how the top French horses seem to get a plum post position for Europe's middle-distance championship, while the best British raiders tend to be drawn in the wilderness of the Bois de Boulogne. Sure enough, Pilsudski, who carries Britain's main hopes after finishing second to Helissio last year, is drawn 15 of 18 — on the outside.

By contrast, connections of the front-running Helissio could not have wished for a better position than the five berth, from where Dominique Boeuf should have little problem grabbing the inside rail. Peintre Celebre, the impressive French Derby winner and likely Arc favourite, is also perfectly placed in stall two.

The vagaries of the draw do offer one advantage — to punters. Trying to separate the respective merits of Peintre Celebre, the best representative of his generation, and Pilsudski, probably the best older horse in training, had been tough — until the draw was announced yesterday.

Of course, runners have been known to overcome a wide draw at Longchamp, but it makes Pilsudski's task harder in what appears to be an above-average running of the Arc. Lord Weinstock's colt may be forced to race wide — and further — and as I suspect his stamina is suspect beyond a truly run 12 furlongs, he may just be found wanting.

Although this season's classic crop has proved ordinary, Peintre Celebre is probably the one exception. His dazzling French Derby success, in which he produced a Dancing Brave-style burst of acceleration, helps to explain the confidence being exuded by André Fabre and Olivier Peslier — and the assertion by Daniel Wildenstein that the Nureyev colt is the best he has owned.

Helissio looked a world beater when making all under Peslier to win unextended by five lengths 12 months ago. However, it is unlikely that the Elie Lellouche-trained four-year-old will be allowed an uncontested lead tomorrow.

Oscar Schindler has bounced back to his best but there is no reason why he should improve on his third place last year. Swain, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes winner, almost certainly needs soft ground to be seen at his best. My Emma, the Yorkshire Oaks winner, is also poorly drawn and has not enjoyed an ideal preparation.

The best outsiders may be the improving Busy Flight and Borgia, the outstanding German-trained filly. However, Peintre Celebre can provide Fabre with his fourth Arc victory, at the main expense of Pilsudski.

Despite the 36-strong field for the Tote Cambridgeshire at Newmarket this afternoon, it is not easy to predict where the pace will develop — and hence whether a high or low draw is favoured.

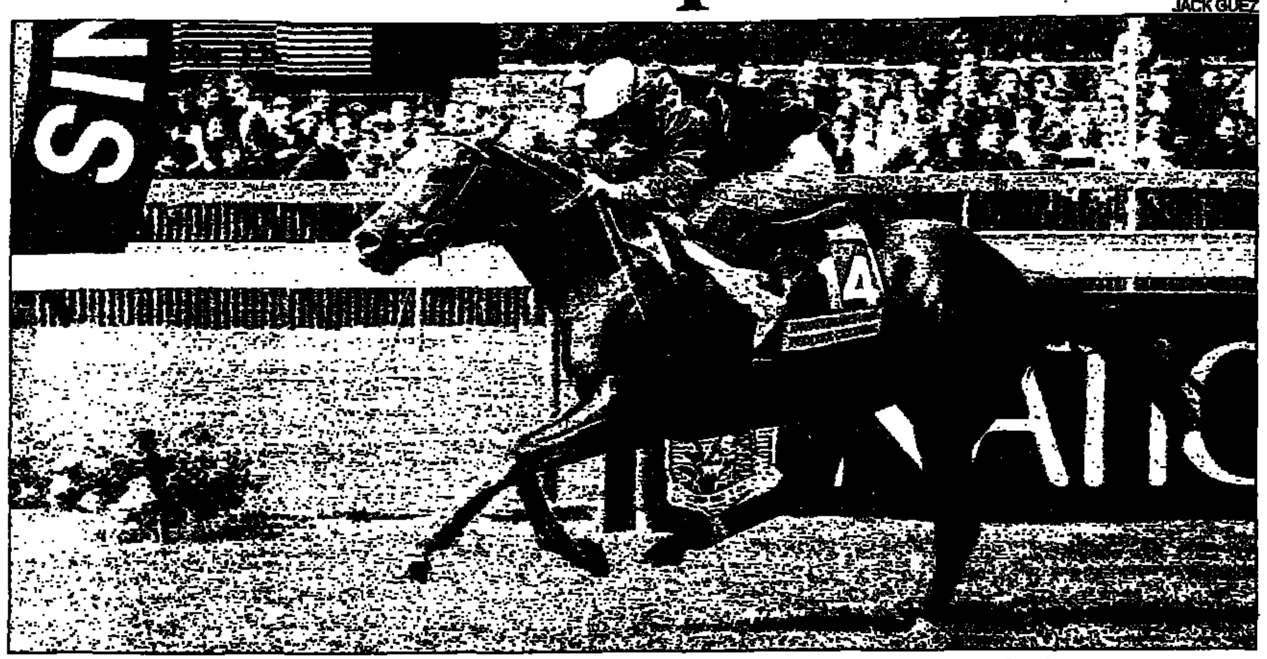
My shortlist for this nine-furlong cavalry charge includes Southerly Wind, who should relish today's extra furlong, Pasternak, whose well-being has overruled doubts about the suitability of the fast ground, and Stanton Harcourt.

However, I suggest two long-shots for value. Hurtleberry has raced only once since winning at Goodwood on her seasonal turf debut in May but, if she reproduces that form, the four-year-old will be in the shake-up.

Mick Ryan is slightly worried about the ground for **Silk St John**, but the going was plenty fast enough at Kempton 13 days ago when the improving three-year-old recorded a career best performance when just failing to catch Yalta in a fast-run mile handicap. Today's extra furlong and stiff finish are ideal.

Results, page 34

JACK GUEZ



Peintre Celebre, who showed impressive acceleration to win the French Derby, is favourite to land tomorrow's Arc

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

1.50 Flawless
2.20 Enchant
2.55 **REAMS OF VERSE** (nap)
3.35 Hunters Of Brora
4.10 Double Eclipse
4.45 Raise A King
5.20 Broughtons Turmoil

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.55 **DUST DANCER.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.20 Enchant. 3.35 Barba Papa. 4.45 **RAISE A KING** (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

1.50 OH SO SHARP STAKES (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,360: 7f) (8 runners)

101	(1)	203310	DIAMOND WHITE 42 (D,F) (P Scott) G Bravery 8-13	D R McCabe	107
102	(7)	001	AMABEL 15 (D,S) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 8-9	M Hills	120
103	(8)	2101	DAZILYN LADY 32 (F,S) (M Parkes G Knight) P Harris 8-9	K Darley	114
104	(5)	12	FLAWLESS 33 (D,S) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 8-9	G Duffield	119
105	(3)	21	NAME OF LOVE 29 (D,G) (W Fox) D Loder 8-9	K Fallon	107
106	(4)	13	NANOUSHKA 30 (BF,G) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds II) R Hannon 8-9	Paul Eddery	109
107	(6)	1142	PARISIAN LADY 32 (BF,F) (A Gome) A Newcombe 8-9	G Hind	111
108	(2)	10	SHUHRAH 44 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-9	R Hills	104

BETTING: 2-1 Flawless, 4-1 Shuhrah, 5-1 Dazilyn Lady, 7-1 Parisian Lady, 8-1 Name Of Love, 10-1 others

1996: SARAYIR 8-9 R Hills (4-7 fav) W Hern 7 ran

2.20 EBF EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,208: 6f) (10 runners)

201	(8)		ALMUROOJ (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-11	R Hills	–
202	(10)		COURT LANE (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-11	R Cochrane	–
203	(1)		ENCHANT (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-11	J Reid	–
204	(6)		GRAZIA (C Humphris) M Prescott 8-11	G Duffield	–
205	(4)	2020226	JILTED 24 (B) (M Hynes) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	98
206	(2)	0	OBLIN 24 (I Lochhead) M Tompkins 8-11	D Biggs	53
207	(3)	4	SASSY LADY 44 (Select Newmarket Partnership) C Dwyer 8-11	J Fortune	75
208	(7)	0	SIXPENCE 24 (Cheveley Park Stud) G Wragg 8-11	M Hills	47
209	(5)	4	SKY RED 149 (T Neill) M Bell 8-11	T Quinn	76
210	(9)		WORTH THE EFFORT (A & M Barnett) M Tompkins 8-11	M Henry (3)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Enchant, 7-2 Almurooj, 5-1 Court Lane, 7-1 Grazia, 8-1 Jilted, 10-1 Sassy Lady, 14-1 others

1996: ELEGANT WARNING 8-11 M Hills (3-1) B Hills 13 ran

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1 mile 1 furlong handicap, Newmarket 3.35pm, Live on CH4 TV.

10/1	Pasternak	28/1	Stanton Harcourt
12/1	Al Azhar	33/1	Bubble Wings
12/1	Hunters Of Brora	33/1	Gift Token
12/1	Prince Of Denial	33/1	Sunbeam Dance
16/1	Barba Papa	33/1	The Dilettanti
16/1	Epic Stand	40/1	Ball Gown
16/1	Rudimental	40/1	Generous Libra
16/1	Sandmoor Chambray	40/1	Mihriz
16/1	Southerly Wind	40/1	Secret Spring
20/1	Gulf Shaadi	40/1	Sue's Return
20/1	King Of Tunes	50/1	Hurtleberry
20/1	Philistar	50/1	Pride Of Pendle
20/1	Zankle	50/1	Secret Aly
22/1	Another Time	50/1	Sharp Shuffle
25/1	Russian Music	50/1	Sharp Temper
28/1	Game Ploy	66/1	Angel Chimes
28/1	Miracle Kid	66/1	Palatial Style
28/1	Silk St John	100/1	Van Gurp

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2.55 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS SUN CHARIOT STAKES (Group II: £33,024: 1m 2f) (8 runners)

C4

301	(5)	11-6114	REAMS OF VERSE 45 (BF,D,F,G,S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-9-0	K Fallon	114
302	(2)	3-20d32	FATEFULLY 14 (F,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-13	M Hills	112
303	(4)	5514110	DUST DANCER 20 (D,F,G,S) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 3-8-8	T Quinn	119
304	(7)	11	KOOL KAT KATIE 42 (G) (G Strawbridge) D Loder 3-8-8	R Cochrane	108
305	(1)	306-546	MRS MINIVER 18 (L Hurley) P Kelleway 3-8-8	J Fortune	107
306	(6)	1-1	ONE SO WONDERFUL 35 (G,S) (H Springfield Ltd) L Cumani 3-8-8	J Reid	113
307	(8)	1-00421	SARAYIR 40 (C,D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 3-8-8	R Hills	115
308	(3)	1304	UKRAINE VENTURE 18 (D,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 3-8-8	K Darley	106

BETTING: 11-10 Reams Of Verse, 3-1 One So Wonderful, 6-1 Kool Kat Katie, 10-1 Dust Dancer, 12-1 others

1996: LAST SECOND 3-8-11 G Duffield (9-4 fav) M Prescott 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Reams Of Verse 5½l 4th to My Emma in 1½m group 1 York stakes (good). Fatefully 4l 2nd to Bin Rosie in 1m Newbury stakes (good to firm). Dust Dancer 8¼l 7th to Queen Maud in 1½m group 1 Longchamp stakes (soft). Kool Kat Katie beat Basse Besogne ¾l in 1m listed Deauville stakes (good). One So Wonderful beat Dragonada 8l in 1m listed Sandown stakes (soft). Sarayir beat Delilah sh hd in 1¼m Newcastle handicap (good). Ukraine Venture 4¾l 4th to Entice in 1¼m listed Yarmouth stakes (good to firm).

REAMS OF VERSE can put classic experience to good use against One So Wonderful

3.35 TOTE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP (£50,627: 1m 1f) (36 runners)

C4

401	(4)	3043314	RUSSIAN MUSIC 7 (F) (Seventh Heaven) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-1	J Wilkinson (7)	96
402	(5)	6112212	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 14 (D,F,G,S) (Sandmoor Co) T Easterby 6-9-7	J Carroll	107
403	(16)	3253240	GAME PLOY 14 (BF,F,G) (K Kynaston) D Haydn Jones 5-9-6	Paul Eddery	118
404	(7)	40-4103	THE DILETTANTI 82 (C,F,G) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 4-9-4	W J O'Connor	101
405	(36)	5500124	ANOTHER TIME 42 (D,F,G) (D Sullivan) S Woods 5-9-3	J Reid	111
406	(2)	1311505	BARBA PAPA 22 (D,F,G,S) (Dr M Bolta) L Cumani 3-9-3	K Fallon	103
407	(32)	-110510	STANTON HARCOURT 21 (F) (C Humphris) J Dunlop 3-9-3	G Carter	104
408	(12)	6-30000	BALL GOWN 14 (C,F,G,S) (C Lines) D Thom 7-9-1	A Whelan (3)	98
409	(17)	20311-1	PASTERNAK 84 (F,G,S) (G Rock) M Prescott 4-9-1	G Duffield	109
410	(23)	-310230	GENEROUS LIBRA 65 (F) (W Said) D Loder 3-9-0	R Cochrane	102
411	(21)	442-504	SUNBEAM DANCE 16 (F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-8-12	D Holland	107
412	(1)	400040	HUNTERS OF BRORA 21 (F,S) (R Gibbons) J Bethell 7-8-12	R Hills	108
413	(29)	41-0135	ZANKLE 14 (B,F,G,S) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld (Ire) 4-8-10	D O'Donohoe	101
414	(31)	11-6023	AL AZHAR 21 (F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) I Balding 3-8-10	K Darley	101
415	(22)	-050300	VAN GURP 35 (G) (Barouche Stud Ltd) B McMahon 4-8-8	A Mackay	106
416	(19)	42-1031	PRINCE OF DENIAL 14 (D,F,G) (J Gutkin) D Arbuthnot 3-8-8 (5ex)	T Quinn	110
417	(20)	-120604	SOUTHERLY WIND 48 (F,G) (Lady Lloyd Webber) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-7	J Fortune	112
418	(8)	6106562	KING OF TUNES 22 (G,S) (Mrs E Sheehan) M Haynes 5-8-7	P Roberts (3)	101
419	(34)	01-10	MIRACLE KID 22 (F) (L Lo) J Gosden 3-8-6	G Hind	114
420	(6)	2315300	SHARP SHUFFLE 14 (F,G) (Mrs H Prendergast) R Hannon 4-8-5	Dane O'Neill	106
421	(10)	15600-3	SECRET SPRING 13 (M George) P Hedger 5-8-4	D Sweeney (3)	94
422	(9)	1-12023	RUDIMENTAL 24 (BF,D,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 3-8-4	J Lowe	120
423	(13)	0056504	SECRET ALY 17 (F,G) (B Yoak) C Brittain 7-8-3	R Ffrench (3)	112
424	(35)	315300	SHARP TEMPER 13 (G) (K Abdulla) B Hills 3-8-3	M Hills	98
425	(26)	2311301	EPIC STAND 21 (D,F,G) (C Wetzler) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-3 (5ex)	F Lynch	108
426	(14)	-100055	GIFT TOKEN 16 (V,F) (Mrs D Ellis) D Chappell 3-8-2	N Carlisle	94
427	(11)	5264340	SUE'S RETURN 14 (F,S) (A Morton) A Jarvis 5-8-1	D Wright	101
428	(25)	0401201	GULF SHAADI 6 (F) (Bobby Halliday Partnership) E Alston 5-8-1 (5ex)	J F Egan	107
429	(28)	1020000	PRIDE OF PENDLE 6 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) M Wane 8-8-0	P Fessey (3)	103
430	(33)	2-31342	SILK ST JOHN 13 (G) (C R S Partners) M Ryan 3-8-0	G Bardwell	103
431	(16)	1000250	PHILISTAR 7 (D,F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 4-8-0	L Charnock	103
432	(15)	/500/00	PALATIAL STYLE 14 (D,F,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 10-8-0	D Biggs	121
433	(30)	02-1310	HURTLEBERRY 48 (F,S) (Mrs I Pilkington) Lord Huntingdon 4-7-13	Aimee Cook (5)	101
434	(24)	71-0060	ANGEL CHIMES 15 (V,C,F,G) (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 4-7-12	R Mullen (5)	102
435	(27)	00-3010	MIHRIZ 22 (BF,F,S) (Normandy Dev) R Akehurst 5-7-10	P Fitzsimons (7)	101
436	(3)	-654027	BUBBLE WINGS 9 (F,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 5-7-10	Martin Dwyer	98

Long handicap: Mihriz 7-8, Bubble Wings 7-5.

BETTING: 8-1 Pasternak, Al Azhar, 10-1 Hunters Of Brora, 12-1 Sandmoor Chambray, Prince Of Denial, Southerly Wind, 14-1 Another Time, 16-1 others

1996: CLIFTON FOX 4-8-2 N Day (14-1) J Glover 38 ran

FORM FOCUS Russian Music 6½l 4th to Jo Mell in 7f Ascot handicap (good to firm) with Philistar (levels) 10l 11th. Sandmoor Chambray 3½l 2nd to Ghataas in 1m 2½f listed Ayr stakes (good to soft). Another Time 2¾l 4th to Labeq in 1¼m Newmarket handicap (good to firm) with Gift Token (3lb worse off) 3¼l 5th, King Of Tunes (1lb better off) 3¾l 6th and Secret Aly (3lb better off) 8l 9th. Pasternak beat Najm Mubeen ½l in 1¼m York handicap (good to firm) with Game Ploy (3lb better off) ¾l 3rd, Secret Aly (12lb better off) 3l 5th, Southerly Wind (1lb better off) 4l 6th, Another Time (1lb worse off) 7l 12th and Ball Gown (10lb better off) 8¼l 16th. Hunters Of Brora 10l 7th to Bonne Etoile in 1¼m Newcastle stakes (good). Prince Of Denial beat Sweet Wilhelmina neck in 1m Newbury handicap (good to firm) with Sharp Shuffle (4lb better off) 11l 10th. King Of Tunes 1¼l 2nd to Darnich Rhapsody in 1m 1f Goodwood handicap (good) with Barba Papa (2lb worse off) 5½l 5th, Miracle Kid (2lb worse off) 9¾l 13th and Mihriz (2lb worse off) 13l 15th. Epic Stand beat Queens Consul ½l in 1m Doncaster handicap (good to firm) with Gulf Shaadi (3lb better off) 6¾l 12th, Hunters Of Brora (6lb better off) 6¾l 13th and Pride Of Pendle (7lb better off) 8¼l 17th. Gulf Shaadi beat Consort 3l in 1m Ascot handicap (good to firm) with Pride Of Pendle (1lb better off) 15l 14th. Silk St John neck 2nd to Yalta in 1m Kempton handicap (good) with Secret Spring (levels) 3¾l 3rd.

The progressive PASTERNAK can extend his winning sequence

4.10 PORTLAND PLACE PROPERTIES JOCKEY CLUB CUP (Group III: £19,710: 2m) (7 runners)

C4

501	(1)	-420032	GREY SHOT 16 (D,F,G,S) (J Smith) I Balding 5-9-5	T Quinn	122
502	(4)	11-6312	DOUBLE ECLIPSE 27 (C,D,F,G,S) (Middleham Pines) M Johnston 5-9-3	J Reid	127
503	(7)	-224413	FURTHER FLIGHT 23 (CD,F,G,S) (S Wingfield Digby) B Hills 11-9-0	M Hills	[illegible]
504	(2)	0-01051	JIYUSH 16 (D,F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-9-0	R Hills	118
505	(6)	-252015	OLD ROUVEL 23 (D,F,S) (Mrs R Cowell) D Murray Smith 6-9-0	K Darley	99
506	(5)	4313521	GEORGIA VENTURE 9 (D,F,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 3-8-0	R Ffrench	111
507	(3)	-053221	THE FARAWAY TREE 8 (F,G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-8-0	Paul Eddery	126

BETTING: 5-4 Double Eclipse, 7-2 Further Flight, 7-1 Jiyush, The Faraway Tree, 8-1 Grey Shot, 10-1 others

1996: CELERIC 4-9-0 R Hills (11-4) D Morley 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Grey Shot beaten sh hd by Saleel in 1¾m York stakes (good to firm). Double Eclipse 5l 2nd to Orchestra Stall in 1m 7½f group III Longchamp stakes (good). Further Flight 1½l 3rd to Canon Can in 2¼m group III Doncaster stakes (good to firm) with Old Rouvel (levels) 22l last. Jiyush beat Grey Shot (2lb worse off) 2½l in 2m Newbury handicap (good to firm). Georgia Venture beat Media Star 1l in 2m Goodwood handicap (good to firm). The Faraway Tree beat Pollarf sh hd in 1¾m Haydock stakes (1m 6f, good).

DOUBLE ECLIPSE can foil Further Flight's attempt for a sixth win in this race

4.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS PERFORMANCE NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,796: 6f) (7 runners)

C4

601	(2)	311	RAISE A KING 16 (D,F,G) (M Tabsh) J W Payne 9-7	G Carter	89+
602	(7)	101	RISQUE LADY 13 (F,G) (M Godwin, M Hollis) P Harris 9-6	K Fallon	[illegible]
603	(4)	3113	MONTE LEMOS 14 (BF,F,G) (S De Zoete) R Charlton 9-1	J Reid	107
604	(1)	3125	BLAKESET 29 (C,F) (Mrs C Parker) R Hannon 8-12	T Quinn	97
605	(5)	31	HAKEEM 32 (D,G) (A Al Shafar) R Armstrong 8-11	R Hills	102
606	(3)	403140	EXBOURNE'S WISH 14 (BF,D,G) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-10	M Hills	104
607	(6)	100	PRINCESS NATALIE 8 (S) (M Burke's 5th Family S'ment) M W Easterby 8-8	T Lucas	97

BETTING: 5-2 Raise A King, 3-1 Risque Lady, 9-2 Monte Lemos, 5-1 Hakeem, 8-1 Blakeset, 10-1 others

1996: SERENITY 8-11 D Harrison (8-1) J Fanshawe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Raise A King beat Shawdon 1¼l in 6f Yarmouth stakes (good to firm). Risque Lady beat Pure Coincidence neck in 5f Haydock stakes (good). Monte Lemos ½l 3rd to Ivory's Joy in 5f Newbury nursery (good to firm) with Exbourne's Wish (4lb better) 9¼l 10th. Blakeset 5¼l 5th to Shawdon in 6f Epsom nursery (good). Hakeem beat Call To Order ½l in 6f Folkestone maiden (good)

MONTE LEMOS is narrowly preferred to Raise A King

5.20 LINKS HANDICAP (£7,668: 7f) (24 runners)

1	(20)	/10150-	COSSACK COUNT 461 (G,S) (S Dow) S Dow 4-9-11	W J O'Connor	–
2	(1)	01030-5	PRIMO LARA 15 (D,F) (Thanet Leasing Ltd) P Harris 5-9-9	J Reid	85
3	(22)	0060360	JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 21 (D,F,G,S) (Highgrove Dev) K McAuliffe 3-9-8	M Hills	87
4	(12)	030-000	SASEEDO 86 (CD,F,G,S) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 7-9-8	Emma O'Gorman	90
5	(14)	10-2240	UNDERCOVER AGENT 66 (D,G) (J Rosenheim) J Dunlop 3-9-7	G Carter	86
6	(5)	-101510	RAAHA 23 (D,F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 3-9-6	R Hills	87
7	(23)	600-600	MULLITOVER 23 (CD,F,S) (Mrs D Mulley) M Heaton-Ellis 7-9-6	R Cochrane	92
8	(3)	6202400	TERTIUM 14 (F) (J Barton) M Wane 5-9-5	J Bramhill	92
9	(9)	1543202	WEETMAN'S WEIGH 15 (D,F,S) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 4-9-4	D Griffiths (3)	94
10	(18)	1681022	MARJAANA 15 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Sanworth) P Walwyn 4-9-3	J Carroll	84
11	(19)	-140500	ZARETSKI 60 (D,F) (B Yoak) C Brittain 3-9-2	G Hind	90
12	(24)	00-6100	NIGHT DANCE 17 (D,F,G,S) (RMOA) K Morgan 5-8-13	R Ffrench (3)	[illegible]
13	(7)	4510630	MR TEIGH 14 (F) (Platinum Racing Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-13	J Fortune	92
14	(16)	3030064	ZELDA ZONK 18 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Panting) B Meehan 5-8-13	K Darley	93
15	(8)	1101002	STACKATTACK 52 (D,F) (Miss E Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-12	F Lynch	89
16	(13)	0242	TAFFS WELL 17 (D Helin Jones) R Akehurst 4-8-12	T Quinn	93
17	(17)	3300050	BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 8 (D,F,G) (R Marlow) B Millman 8-8-11	K Fallon	80
18	(21)	0616116	RYMER'S RASCAL 15 (D,F,S) (B Chambers) E Alston 5-8-5	J F Egan	87
19	(2)	0606504	ROYAL RESULT 15 (F) (M Burke's 5th Family S'ment) M W Easterby 4-8-5	T Lucas	94
20	(4)	0110030	WATCH THE FIRE 14 (F,G,S) (E Carter) J Banks 4-8-4	D Biggs	92
21	(11)	4210010	MYTTONS MISTAKE 15 (D,F) (G Mytton) A Bailey 4-8-4	P Roberts (3)	96
22	(15)	0-01514	SANDCLIFFE 17 (BF,D,F) (Ash Partnership) J Toller 4-7-12	M Henry (3)	95
23	(6)	0423014	GAIN LINE 17 (V,D,F) (Legend Racing Club) Bob Jones 4-7-10	L Charnock	84
24	(10)	030-000	RISE UP SINGING 56 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs R Brown) W Musson 9-7-10	D O'Shea	–

Long handicap: Gain Line 7-8, Rise Up Singing 6-3

BETTING: 8-1 Sandcliffe, 10-1 Raaha, Weetman's Weigh, Stackattack, Taffs Well, Rymer's Rascal, Royal Result, Myttons Mistake, 12-1 others

1996: DON'T GET CAUGHT 4-7-10 L Charnock (7-1) J L Harris 16 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	14	46	30.4	L Charnock	4	21	19.0
H Cecil	45	184	24.5	R Hills	23	176	13.1
M Prescott	4	17	23.5	K Fallon	14	116	12.1
D Loder	14	85	16.5	R Ffrench	3	25	12.0
R Charlton	8	49	16.3	D McCabe	5	43	11.6
J Gosden	29	190	15.3	M Hills	28	254	11.0

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

2.05 Crack On
2.40 Summer Spell
3.10 Bell Staffboy
3.45 Sofyaan
4.20 Walter's Dream
4.50 Noble Colours

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.05 TIMEFORM CHASERS & HURDLERS NOVICES CHASE (£7,360: 2m 3f 110yd) (3 runners)

BBC1

1	2121124	BAYERD 23 (F,G,S) (T G K Construction Ltd) J O'Shea 6-11-8	Michael Brennan	114
2	-053125	FRASER CAREY 5 (B,F,G) (Mrs J Burridge) T George 5-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	106
3	11030-	CRACK ON 175 (F,G,S) (D Peppiatt) P Hobbs 7-11-0	R Dunwoody	117

BETTING: 2-5 Crack On, 9-2 Fraser Carey, 5-1 Bayerd.

1996: CALL EQUINAME 6-11-0 R Dunwoody (4-5 fav) P Nicholls 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Bayerd 18l 4th to Mr Playfull in 2½m Newton Abbot handicap chase (good). Fraser Carey 11l 5th to Faustino in 2m 3f Exeter novice chase (good to firm). Crack On 19l 7th to I'm A Dreamer in 2m Ascot handicap hurdle (good to firm)

CRACK ON has a clear opportunity to record his first chase win

2.40 TIMEFORM FREE HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £6,986: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

BBC1

1	11422-	FAR DAWN 184 (D,F,G) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 11-10	C Maude	140
2	315341-	SUMMER SPELL 162 (D,F,G) (W, M & Mrs E Roberts) N Henderson 11-7	M A Fitzgerald	149
3	44-	CHABROL 61F (T Connors) John Berry 11-0	V Smith	130
4	0314-	FASIL 12F (V,BF,G) (T Cahill) J O'Shea 10-10	Michael Brennan (3)	132
5	331P-4	GRANDON BOULEVARD 21 (D,F) (Mrs S Murray) Mrs J Pitman 10-6	R Farrant	130
6	102131-	DISALLOWED 11F (G) (M Burke's Family Settlement) D Nicholson 10-6	R Johnson	137
7	622221-	FAIRLY SHARP 112F (D,F,G) (Mrs C Bravery) Graeme Roe 10-6	R Dunwoody	138
8	111	PUNKAH 15F (D,F,G,S) (McCourt Fine Meats/D Rochon) G McCourt 10-6	D Bridgwater	144
9	5-63403	CHIEF MOUSE 21 (D,F,G) (B Gavan) F Jordan 10-3	L Aspell (3)	129
10	081-	BRECON 14F (D,G) (Four Wilkes Partnership) W Muir 10-0	M Richards	116

Long handicap: Brecon 9-12

BETTING: 3-1 Disallowed, 5-1 Summer Spell, Fairly Sharp, 6-1 Far Dawn, 8-1 Fasil, 10-1 Grandon Boulevard, Punkah, Brecon, 14-1 others

1996: HAMILTON SILK 10-7 G Bradley (16-1) M Pipe 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Far Dawn 5l 2nd to Quakers Field in 2m grade II Aintree novice hurdle (good) with Summer Spell (3lb better off) 11l 4th. Summer Spell beat Eau De Cologne 6l in 2½m Ascot novice hurdle (good). Chabrol 17l 4th to L'Opera in 2m grade II Kempton novice hurdle (good to soft) with Fairly Sharp (3lb better off) 20l 6th. Fasil 8½l 4th to John Drumm in 2m Ascot novice handicap hurdle (good to firm). Grandon Boulevard 16l 4th to Winsford Hill in 2½m Worcester handicap hurdle (good). Disallowed beat Rachel Louise 10l in 2¼m Exeter novice hurdle (good). Fairly Sharp beat Irene's Pet 13l in 2m Stratford novice hurdle (good). Punkah beat Lightning Quest 14l in 2m Southwell novice handicap hurdle (good). Chief Mouse 15l 3rd to Danegold in 2m 1f Bangor handicap hurdle (good). Brecon beat Sadler's Realm 4l in 2m Perth novice hurdle (good)

SUMMER SPELL hampered when behind Far Dawn at Aintree, can take revenge

3.10 MERCEDES BENZ HANDICAP CHASE (£6,892: 3m) (7 runners)

BBC1

1	1d110F-	BELL STAFFBOY 186 (D,F,G) (K Bell & Son) J O'Shea 8-11-10	Michael Brennan (3)	157
2	211420-	EVANGELICA 180 (F,S) (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 7-11-4	C Maude	141
3	U12412-	SAMLEE 168 (C,D,F,G,S) (White Lion Partnership) P Hobbs 8-11-2	D Bridgwater	144
4	211135-	FATHER SKY 9F (B,BF,D,F,G) (K Kornfeld) O Sherwood 6-11-1	J Osborne	146
5	212252-	DROMHANA 187 (B,BF,D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-10-5	T J Murphy	140
6	341P23U	ANDRELOT 4 (B,D,F,G) (Towy Valley Plant Ltd) P Bowen 10-10-5	R Dunwoody	146
7	11423-5	BEATSON 7 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Gardiner) R Buckler 8-10-3	B Powell	151

BETTING: 3-1 Samlee, 7-2 Father Sky, 5-1 Evangelica, Dromhana, 7-1 Bell Staffboy, Andrelot, 12-1 Beatson.

1996: GENERAL CRACK 7-11-4 A P McCoy (9-4 jt-fav) P Nicholls 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Bell Staffboy beaten when fell three out behind Dorans Pride in 2½m grade I Fairyhouse chase (good to firm). Evangelica 17th to Lord Gyllene in 4½m Grand National (good). Samlee 1½l 2nd to Belmont King in 4m 1f Scottish Grand National at Ayr (good). Father Sky distance 5th to Big Archie in 3m Stratford novice chase (good). Dromhana 20l 2nd to Strokesaver in 3¼m Wincanton novice chase (firm). Andrelot unseated rider behind Pennybridge in 2m 5f Sedgefield handicap chase (good to firm). Beatson distance last of 5 to Highbeath in 2½m Market Rasen handicap chase (good).

DROMHANA can take advantage of the weight concession from Bell Staffboy

3.45 STARTERS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,836: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	JOLLY JAMES (Brigadier Racing) Mrs M Jones 6-10-12	D Byrne	–
2	ORSAY 22F (D Deer) W Muir 5-10-12	M Richards	–
3	SOFYAAN 72F (E Fehel) Lady Herries 4-10-11	R Dunwoody	–
4	GALACIA 316F (R Heddlich) R Alner 5-10-7	R Johnson	–

BETTING: 4-5 Orsay, 5-4 Sofyaan, 12-1 Jolly James, Galacia.

1996: LAKE KARIBA 5-10-12 A P McCoy (4-6 fav) P Nicholls 14 ran

4.20 50 YEARS OF TIMEFORM NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,534: 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1	4244-21	NORTHERN FLEET 40 (D,F) (Racing For Pleasure) Mrs A Perrett 4-11-12	C Maude	108
2	26/31	WALTER'S DREAM 49 (F) (Mrs E Baines) N Henderson 7-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	117
3	1005-R	TIDAL FORCE 24 (F) (I Steers) P Hobbs 6-10-10	R Dunwoody	101
4	0U5-	FREELINE FONTAINE 148 (I Struel) N Henderson 5-10-6	J R Kavanagh	90

BETTING: 11-8 Walter's Dream, 9-4 Tidal Force, 7-2 Northern Fleet, 6-1 Freeline Fontaine

1996: EMBLEY BUOY 8-10-0 S Curran (50-1) J Mullins 12 ran

4.50 VALETS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,784: 2m 4f 110yd) (3 runners)

1	6F1-212	ROBERT'S TOY 7 (B,F,G,S) (C Smith) M Pipe 6-11-10	C Maude	127
2	23402-2	NOBLE LORD 119 (BF,F,G) (Compass Partnership) R Phillips 4-11-8	B Powell	122
3	1F03-FF	NOBLE COLOURS 21 (F) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 4-10-4	R Johnson	120

BETTING: 5-4 Robert's Toy, 6-4 Noble Lord, 4-1 Noble Colours.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	15	55	27.3	D Bridgwater	19	79	24.1
P Hobbs	19	73	26.0	R Dunwoody	25	117	21.4
M Pipe	47	194	24.2	R Johnson	10	53	18.9
P Nicholls	15	72	20.8	M A Fitzgerald	13	79	16.5
Mrs J Pitman	6	34	17.6	R Farrant	5	35	14.3

TOMORROW'S BIG RACE

3.20 PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE (Group I: £448,934: 1m 4f) (18 runners)

BBC2

1	(7)	240-531	POSIDONAS 17 (D,F,G,S) (A Christodoulou) P Cole (GB) 5-9-5 *(b h Slip Anchor - Tamassos) (Orange, maroon disc, maroon cap)*	T Quinn	119
2	(3)	4-54114	STEWARD 21 (CD,G,S) (G Coudat) D Sepulchre 4-9-5 *(b c Saumarez - Bella Ombre) (Light blue, mauve spots, light blue cap, mauve spots)*	S Guillot	117
3	(18)	5-56252	NOTHIN' LEICA DANE 21 (G) (Dalian Hodge Ecurie Synd) J Hammond 5-9-5 *(b c Danehill - Leica Pretender) (Tartan, black hoop)*	G Mosse	116
4	(8)	60-2233	LE DESTIN 21 (G) (M Debeusscher) P Demercastel 4-9-5 *(b c Zayyani - My Darling) (Pink, green triple diamonds, green sleeves, pink cap, green diamond)*	T Gillet	121
5	(10)	1-23011	BUSY FLIGHT 23 (D,F,G) (S Wingfield Digby) B Hills (GB) 4-9-5 *(br c Pharly - Bustling Nelly) (Apple green, black sleeves)*	M Hills	118
6	(11)	11-2103	PREDAPPIO 28 (D,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 4-9-5 *(b c Polish Precedent - Khalafiya) (Royal blue)*	J Reid	126
7	(13)	143-213	SWAIN 17 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 5-9-5 *(b h Nashwan - Love Smitten) (Royal blue)*	L Dettori	127
8	(12)	30-2531	OSCAR SCHINDLER 15 (D,F,G,S) (O Lehane) K Prendergast (Ire) 5-9-5 *(ch h Royal Academy - Saraday) (White, royal blue sash, red and blue qtd cap)*	C Asmussen	117
9	(15)	1-32121	PILSUDSKI 22 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute (GB) 5-9-5 *(b h Polish Precedent - Cocotte) (Pale blue, white & yellow check cap)*	M Kinane	125
10	(17)	0-52221	YOKOHAMA 21 (CD,S) (Mme A Paulson) Mme C Head 6-9-5 *(gr h Theatrical - Griddle) (White, red epaulettes, blue sleeves, white and red quartered cap)*	O Doleuze	114
11	(5)	13-1132	HELISSIO 28 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (E Sarasola) E Lellouche 4-9-5 *(b c Fairy King - Helice) (Yellow, green epaulets)*	D Boeuf	125
12	(14)	5131-31	MY EMMA 46 (CD,F,G) (Matthews Racing) R Guest (GB) 4-9-2 *(b f Marju - Pato) (Emerald green, emerald green and yellow quartered cap)*	D Holland	129
13	(2)	13-1112	PEINTRE CELEBRE 21 (BF,C,D,G,S) (D Wildenstein) A Fabre 3-8-11 *(ch c Nureyev - Peinture) (Dark blue, light blue & white check cap)*	O Peslier	120
14	(9)	1361	EBADIYLA 84 (D,G) (H H Aga Khan) J Oxx (Ire) 3-8-8 *(b f Sadlers Wells - Ebaziya) (Green, red epaulettes, green cap)*	J Murtagh	121
15	(1)	112121	BORGIA 28 (D,G,S) (Gestut Ammerland) B Schutz (Ger) 3-8-8 *(b f Acatenango - Britannia) (Red, green chevron, green star on cap)*	K Fallon	128
16	(6)	1-1113	QUE BELLE 49 (G,S) (Stall Stoof) H Remmert (Ger) 3-8-8 *(b f Seattle Dancer - Qui Bid) (Champagne, red diagonal stripe and cap)*	K Woodburn	121
17	(16)	2-11031	QUEEN MAUD 21 (CD,G,S) (G Tanaka) J de Roualle 3-8-8 *(b f Akarad - Modiyna) (Green, white chevron and sleeves, white cap, green diamond)*	T Jarnet	118
18	(4)	13-3232	GAZELLE ROYALE 21 (G) (D Thompson) J Hammond 3-8-8 *(b f Garde Royale - Beautywal) (Red & dark blue halved, slvs reversed, striped cap)*	M Roberts	117

BETTING: 5-2 Peintre Celebre, 3-1 Pilsudski, 7-2 Helissio, 8-1 Swain, 10-1 My Emma, 14-1 Oscar Schindler, 16-1 Borgia, 20-1 Busy Flight, 25-1 Predappio, Ebadiyla, Queen Maud, 33-1 others.

1996: HELISSIO 3-8-11 O Peslier (6-4 fav) E Lellouche 16 ran

FORM FOCUS Posidonas beat Arabian Story sh hd in 1m 3f Newbury listed stakes (good to firm) with Swain (7lb better off) neck 3rd. Busy Flight beat Memorise 3l in 1½m Doncaster listed stakes (good); previously beat Yorkshire 1l in 1½m Newbury stakes (good to firm). Oscar Schindler beat Persian Punch 2l in 1¾m Curragh group I Irish St Leger (good to soft); previously ½l 3rd to King Alex in 1¼m Curragh group III stakes (1m 2f, good to soft). Pilsudski beat Desert King 4½l in 1¼m Leopardstown group I stakes (good); previously 1l 2nd to Swain (levels) in 1½m Ascot group I King George and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (soft) with Helissio (levels) 2¼l 3rd and Predappio (levels) 17l 7th. Yokohama beat Nothin' Leica Dane (levels) 1l in 1½m Longchamp group III stakes (soft) with Le Destin (levels) 1½l 3rd and Steward (levels) 1½l 4th. Helissio 3l 2nd to Spinning World in 1m Longchamp group I stakes (good). My Emma beat Whitewater Affair ¾l in 1½m York group I stakes (good); previously ½l 3rd to Surgeon in 1½m Maisons-Laffitte group II stakes (good). Peintre Celebre neck 2nd to Rajpoute in 1½m Longchamp group II stakes (soft); previously beat Ithaki 2l in 1¼m Longchamp group I stakes (heavy). Ebadiyla beat Yashmak 3l in 1½m Curragh group I Irish Oaks (good); previously 4¼l 6th to Reams Of Verse in 1½m Epsom group I Oaks Stakes (good to firm). Borgia beat Luso 1½l in 1½m Baden-Baden group I stakes (good) with Predappio (4lb better off) 2l 3rd. Que Belle 1¼l 3rd to Caitano in 1½m Gelsenkirchen group I stakes (good); previously beat Borgia (levels) 1¼l in 1m 3f Mulheim group II fillies stakes (soft). Queen Maud beat Gazelle Royale (levels) 1l in 1½m Longchamp group I fillies stakes (soft)

BORGIA, who is improving with every outing, is well drawn and can spring a surprise

LONGCHAMP TODAY

GOING: GOOD

1.25 PRIX DU CADRAN (Group I: £44,872: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

BBC1

1	(3)	15-0014	DOUBLE TRIGGER 23 (BF,D,F,G,S) (R Huggins) M Johnston (GB) 6-9-2	M Roberts
2	(1)	330-033	CHIEF CONTENDER 27 (F,S) (Mrs J Magnier) P Chapple-Hyam (GB) 4-9-2	O Doleuze
3	(2)	-5011563	TOBA 20 (S) (L Sanchez-Moncebo) R Martin-Sanchez (Sp) 8-9-2	S Guillot
4	(7)	12-2412	LEONARD QUERCUS 27 (E Sarasola) F Badouard (Sp) 5-9-2	O Peslier
5	(4)	522-244	ALWAYS EARNEST 27 (CD,S) (Scuderia Mirabell) Mme Bollack-Badel 9-9-2	A Badel
6	(5)	1105522	PERSIAN PUNCH 14 (F,G,S) (J Smith) D Elsworth (GB) 4-9-2	C Asmussen
7	(6)	-412154	CELERIC 46 (BF,D,F,G) (C Spence) D Morley (GB) 5-9-2	L Dettori

BETTING: 2-1 Celeric, 11-4 Double Trigger, 4-1 Persian Punch, 5-1 Chief Contender, 8-1 Always Earnest, 25-1 Toba, Leonard Quercus.

1996: NONONITO 5-9-2 T Jarnet (18-1) J Lesbordes 10 ran

2.25 PRIX DE ROYALLIEU (Group II: Fillies: £26,923: 1m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

BBC1

1	(7)	135511-	ANNABA 349 (CD,F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden (GB) 4-9-1	O Peslier
2	(3)	210-012	TULIPA 91 (D,F,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 4-9-1	L Dettori
3	(6)	104-03	AVERRING 19 (S) (G Christrom) J Connington 4-9-1	F Sanchez
4	(9)	1-240	DARASHANDEH 118 (S) (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer-Dupre 3-8-7	C Asmussen
5	(1)	3-52314	KASSANA 62 (D,G) (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer-Dupre 3-8-7	G Mosse
6	(8)	34-151	MUSCADEL 25 (C,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre 3-8-7	T Jarnet
7	(4)	0315	ROSABELLA 34 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Pantall 3-8-7	S Guillot
8	(2)	21141	DAME KIRI 19 (D,G,S) (Aylesfield Farms) Mme C Head 3-8-7	O Doleuze
9	(5)	4635004	GRACIE LADY 28 (R Strauss) R Collet 3-8-7	D Boeuf

BETTING: 5-2 Tulipa, 3-1 Annaba, 4-1 Darashandeh, 6-1 Kassana, 8-1 Dame Kiri, 10-1 Muscadel, 12-1 Averring, 25-1 others.

1996: ANNABA 3-8-7 L Dettori (9-1) J Gosden (GB) 13 ran

2.55 PRIX DOLLAR (Group II: £26,923: 1m 1f 165yd) (8 runners)

BBC1

1	(7)	31-2193	ALHAARTH 21 (C,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 4-9-4	L Dettori
2	(8)	200415	BELLO 13 (J Gomes-Pineda Gozzetta) F Badouard (Sp) 5-9-0	C Asmussen
3	(5)	1-2243	ASTARABAD 125 (G) (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer-Dupre 3-8-9	G Mosse
4	(1)	21-1622	DESERT STORY 21 (BF,F,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute (GB) 3-8-9	O Peslier
5	(4)	1d53264	MANNENBERG 18 (C,G) (Ecurie Fabien Ouaki) P Demercastel 3-8-9	V Vion
6	(3)	31-1344	VISIONARY 14 (C,G,S) (J Lagardere) A Fabre 3-8-9	T Jarnet
7	(2)	-121242	LORD CROMBY 38 (C,D,G) (Mrs P O'Neill) R Collet 3-8-9	D Boeuf
8	(6)	2201133	HANDSOME RIDGE 14 (S) (Platt Promotions Ltd) J Gosden (GB) 3-8-9	S Guillot

BETTING: 5-2 Astarabad, 7-2 Alhaarth, 4-1 Visionary, 9-2 Handsome Ridge, 5-1 Desert Story, 16-1 Lord Cromby, 25-1 Mannenberg, 33-1 Bello.

1996: FLEMENSFIRTH 4-9-0 L Dettori (2-1 fav) J Gosden (GB) 11 ran

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW

1.30 EUROSTAR - PRIX DU ROND POINT (Group II: £35,897: 1m) (4 runners)

BBC2

1	(4)	116121	DECORATED HERO 10 (CD,F,S) (Exors of H Allen) J Gosden (GB) 5-9-1	L Dettori
2	(2)	2111	MARATHON 38 (D,G,S) (Mme M de Chambure) Mme C Head 3-8-11	O Doleuze
3	(3)	150332	EDEN ROCK 33 (D,G) (M Herbert) B Schutz (Ger) 3-8-11	K Fallon
4	(1)	-131164	KALDOU STAR 36 (D,S) (J Seroul) E Lellouche 3-8-11	T Thulliez

BETTING: 8-13 Decorated Hero, 2-1 Marathon, 7-1 Kaldou Star, 14-1 Eden Rock.

1996: ALHAARTH 3-8-11 R Hills (8-1) W Hern 10 ran

2.05 PRIX MARCEL BOUSSAC (Group I: 2-Y-O fillies: £71,795: 1m) (10 runners)

BBC2

1	(8)	21	ASHRAAKAT 44 (G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop (GB) 8-11	R Hills
2	(1)	1	LOVING CLAIM 17 (CD,G) (M al-Maktoum) Mme C Head 8-11	O Doleuze
3	(6)	11	ANNA PALARIVA 25 (D,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre 8-11	O Peslier
4	(7)	13331	SARALEA 43 (D,G) (Mme M de Chambure) D Smaga 8-11	D Boeuf
5	(10)	0115	PLAISIR DES YEUX 25 (G,S) (M Debeusscher) P Demercastel 8-11	T Gillet
6	(4)	13231	SILENT TRIBUTE 21 (D,F,G) (Mrs E Harris) M Bell (GB) 8-11	L Dettori
7	(9)	2114	KHUMBA MELA 42 (G) (Mme P de Moussac) A Fabre 8-11	T Jarnet
8	(2)	0345	NOEMIE 35 (Mme G Sandor) G Sandor 8-11	G Guignard
9	(3)	1	DESERT DRAMA 49 (G) (R Strauss) R Collet 8-11	S Guillot
10	(5)	11	ISLE DE FRANCE 29 (D,G,S) (M Tabor) A Fabre 8-11	A Junk

BETTING: 5-2 Ashraakat, 4-1 Silent Tribute, 9-2 Anna Palariva, 11-2 Desert Drama, 13-2 Isle De France, 7-1 Khumba Mela, 8-1 Loving Claim, 14-1 others

1996: RYAFAN 8-11 L Dettori (2-1 jt-fav) J Gosden (GB) 13 ran

2.40 PRIX DE L'ABBAYE DE LONGCHAMP (Group I: £44,872: 5f) (12 runners)

BBC2

1	(6)	0-11121	ROYAL APPLAUSE 30 (D,F,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills (GB) 4-9-11	M Hills
2	(8)	4451343	AVERTI 8 (D,F,G,S) (D Deer) W Muir (GB) 6-9-11	M J Kinane
3	(11)	-321235	TITUS LIVIUS 32 (D,G,S) (Marchos Family) J Pease 4-9-11	C Asmussen
4	(9)	10-111	LATE PARADE 63 (BF,D,G) (A Balzanni) A Renzoni (It) 6-9-11	O Fancera
5	(10)	-610060	DEEP FINESSE 17 (CD,F,S) (J Sims) M Jarvis (GB) 3-9-11	M Roberts
6	(3)	16-0051	EVENINGPERFORMANCE 17 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Blackburn) R Candy (GB) 6-9-7	C Rutter
7	(2)	5541001	DON'T WORRY ME 32 (CD,F,G,S) (J Grisoment) G Henrot 5-9-7	O Peslier
8	(7)	3406850	HEVER GOLF ROSE 17 (CD,F,G,S) (Hever RC) T Naughton (GB) 6-9-7	J Weaver
9	(1)	13145-3	CARMINE LAKE 25 (D,F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam (GB) 3-9-7	J Reid
10	(5)	12111-3	KISTENA 16 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (Wertheimer et Frere) Mme C Head 4-9-7	D Boeuf
11	(4)	311-141	PAS DE REPONSE 35 (D,F,G,S) (Wertheimer et Frere) Mme C Head 3-9-7	O Doleuze
12	(12)	12130	ZELDING 42 (D,G,S) (R Strauss) R Collet 2-8-4	T Jarnet

BETTING: 5-2 Pas De Reponse, 3-1 Royal Applause, 8-1 Eveningperformance, Don't Worry Me, Kistena, 10-1 Titus Livius, 12-1 Late Parade, Cantoria Lake, 14-1 others.

1996: KISTENA 3-9-7 O Doleuze (15-1) Mme C Head 10 ran

RACING NEXT WEEK

TOMORROW: Leicester (first race, 2.30), Kelso (2.20), Wincanton (2.10)

MONDAY: Pontefract (2.15), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.25), Fontwell Park (2.35).

TUESDAY: Redcar (2.10), Warwick (2.00), Plumpton (2.20).

WEDNESDAY: Nottingham (2.10), York (2.00), Towcester (2.20).

THURSDAY: York (2.00), Exeter (2.20), Ludlow (2.10)

FRIDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.00), Carlisle (1.50), Huntingdon (2.10).

SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.00), York (C4, 2.15), Bangor (2.10), Hexham (2.20), Worcester (2.25).

Flat meetings in bold

RACELINE
0930 168+

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
NEWMARKET	101	201
CHEPSTOW	102	202
NOTT'HAM	103	203
UTTOXETER	104	204
W'HAMPTON	105	205
IRISH	120	220
SUNDAY RACING		
LEICESTER	101	201
WINCANTON	102	202
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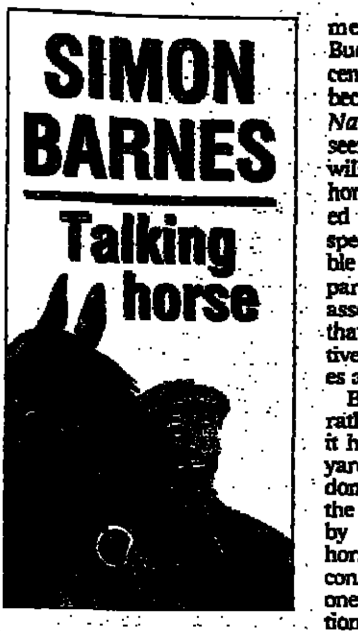
هكذا من الأصل

Pilsudski pursues finest triumph

Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe challenge is built on Stoute's patient approach to training



There is an air of authority about Pilsudski. Not swagger: there is no aspect of bluff about him. It is just that he has grown used to a certain amount of deference from those around him. He expects this, and without making an atom of fuss, this is exactly what he gets.

But then he is a five-year-old. In Flat racing, to be five is to be a wise old ancient. A five-year-old horse in a racing yard looks out over the daft two-year-olds and the skittering full-of-themselves three-year-olds and knows that he is a citizen of stature.

And a certain class. Pilsudski is one of the best racehorses in the world and, while it would be ludicrously anthropomorphic to add "and he knows it", it is perfectly clear that he thinks a good deal of himself, and has a good idea of his place among the horses all around him. Which is, for choice, first.

There is one object in the way of his dominance at Michael Stoute's yard in Newmarket. That is Singspiel. "Just hates him," said his lad, Paula Roberts. (The term lad is now sexless as it has always been ageless.) Singspiel is another five-year-old and the two have been stable companions for four years and rivals in races since Sandown last April, when Singspiel came out on top. Stoute's yard has the pleasant custom of allowing the horses to take "a pick of grass", on the green sward around which the boxes run along three sides of the square.

"But he won't get his head down if Singspiel's there," Roberts said. "They just stare at each other. Nothing else. Just stare." Pilsudski has never acquired the habit of backing down. It is a handy quality to have, in the middle of a tough race; better still at the end of one. Pilsudski runs in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris tomorrow, one of three co-favourites, and there are few tougher races in the world.

Pilsudski, in a racing word, has "class". And it is one of the most ancient principles in horseracing: that Class Will Tell. Or as an American gambler once said: "Cheap horses know it." Anthropomorphic? Let me quote Stephen Budiansksy, from a recent book that should become a classic, *The Nature of Horses*. "Some seemingly slower horses will consistently beat horses that have recorded considerably faster speeds; it seems plausible that this is at least in part a reflection of subtle assertions of dominance that horses ... instructively defer to when horses are on the move."

But it helps to be rather quick as well. And it helps to come from a yard where the sense of dominance is also part of the air that is breathed by the lads, and the horses. Stoute can be considered objectively as one of the top international trainers in the world, with victories in the past 12 months in the Canadian International, the Japan Cup, the Dubai World Cup and the Breeders' Cup Turf, four of the richest and therefore most prestigious races in the global racing round. To pick up the Arc — it would be his first — would complete a very nice set.

Contradictions come easily in racing. Stoute, on a day with a Newmarket race meeting, in the middle of sales week and days before one of the year's biggest races, was strung up like a banjo: also relaxed, calm and exuding a kind of wary confidence. You don't win races without being very, very determined to do so, and that involves a very great deal of tension. But you don't get anywhere at all with horses without convincing them of your calmness and self-confidence.

Patience is a virtue in horsemanship, too, and Pilsudski stands as a masterpiece of patience. He ran twice as a two year-old, and didn't win either time. The next year, he did reasonably well in reasonable handicaps: a decent enough sort of horse, but hardly Premier League class. But Stoute was convinced that the horse had plenty of improvement in him, and Pilsudski turned out to be the classic late developer. But how did Stoute know? "Lord Weinstock," he replied, "is very kind." This being the owner, and managing horses is the easy part of training. Managing owners is the tough part.

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Mist opportunity: Starkey puts Pilsudski through his paces on the gallops in early-morning preparation for his challenge on the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

But Lord Weinstock was prepared to go along with Stoute's belief that the best was yet to come. "It was the way he ran as a two-year-old that convinced me," Stoute said. It was not until the autumn of his four-year-old season that Pilsudski seriously started to keep his promises. After winning big races in Ireland and Germany, he was second in the Arc last year. This year, he has won the Irish Champion Stakes and the Eclipse. "He's better than he ever has been and better than he ever will be," one of the lads said; the line is less pithy without the expletives, but a good deal shorter.

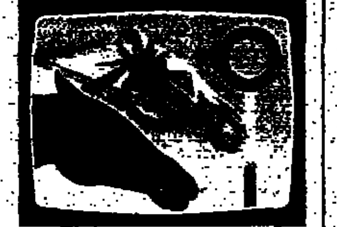
Seven-thirty, and Pilsudski stepping from his box like the old pro he is. A leg-up for his work-rider, Greville Starkey. Then Pilsudski and a work-companion stride off side by side towards the racecourse for a last gallop before the Arc. Photographers, as a race, tend not to be long on tact. Accepting advice on his best position from Stoute, Julian Herbert asked: "Will he be the one in front?" There was a pleasingly dangerous three-second pause, and then, in a voice of velvet: "I hope so."

He was. We stood in the Silver Ring and watched the horses materialise from the mist, not quite at full racing pace, but a good sharp clip. It was a performance that was filled with rhythm, self-confidence and — yes — class. It was satisfying. "Are you happy?" I asked. Sometimes writers are not much better than photographers. The outside corner of Stoute's mouth turned softly upwards, his eyes stayed focused on the strip of grass that a few seconds ago had been lightly singed by Pilsudski's passage. The gentlemanly silence meant that Mr Stoute would be happy to answer questions on Sunday evening.

Pilsudski must first attempt to answer his own question on Sunday afternoon. Win or lose, he will get handfuls and handfuls of Extra Strong Mints from his lad, who purchases them for him in industrial quantities. Win or lose, he is a very fine racehorse. But win — and he really is one of the greats. A monument to perspicacity and patience: classic horsey virtues.

You might like to think of Pilsudski as the horse that surprised the world, and then went on and on surprising. But Stoute would emphatically disagree, in words that deserve to be taken down as one of the definitive remarks of racing, a must for all quotations books. "If you have a decent colt or filly, they're hardly ever a surprise," he said. "You tend to get disappointments in this game rather than surprises."

Celeric to reap early dividend



LONGCHAMP
BBC1

1.25: This can be dominated by British raiders, though there must be a doubt over Persian Punch lasting this trip. Celeric and Double Trigger, by contrast both Ascot Gold Cup winners, had excuses for disappointing runs last time and the consistent **Celeric** gets the vote.

2.25: It would be remarkable if even the in-form John Gosden could produce Annaba to repeat last year's success, not having raced in the interim. The ground is faster this time, which will not trouble **Tulipa**, who confirmed how well she stays when rallying gamely in the Lancashire Oaks.

2.55: Local success seems assured here if **Astarabad** can repeat his French Derby third to the Arc favourite, Peintre Celebre. He led, travelling well, in the straight but may not have got home, so this could prove his optimum trip. He loves fast ground and has a touch of class.

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

2.05: Caution is certainly advised about Crack On, despite the promise of his sole start over fences last season, as he is not a proven stayer. Bayerd, conversely, would prefer a stiffer test, which makes **Fraser Carey** the prudent choice. His swift return encourages one to forgive an Exeter failure, when something appeared amiss, and he had previously run his best race when chasing home a subsequent winner at Bangor.

2.40: Far Dawn and Summer Spell earned their big weights in top juvenile company last year, and it may pay to side with less exposed horses. Punkah, unbeaten over timber, faces his stiffest task today, but Richard Dunwoody's booking offers encouragement that Fairly Sharp is fit. **Crandon Boulevard** certainly should be, having shaped nicely on his Worcester reappearance.

3.10: Samlee finished last season with a fine second in the Scottish National and could improve. Father Sky won on the Flat the other day but, like the lazy Andrelot, has his quirks. The same may be true of **Beatson**; but he can go well at a big price, having blown up over a shorter trip at Market Rasen last week.

Chris McGrath

NEWMARKET
CHANNEL 4

2.55: Despite winning the Oaks, Reams Of Verse is arguably better over this trip. One So Wonderful won easily on her belated seasonal reappearance at Sandown, but has never raced on ground this fast. **Kool Kat Katie** was impressive when winning in France last time and is open to further improvement.

3.35: see facing page.

4.10: **Jiyush** is not the soundest horse in training but is decidedly useful. He beat Grey Shot easily at Newbury and can cope with this rise in class. The Faraway Tree and Double Eclipse are dangers.

4.45: **Risque Lady's** only defeat came when she bolted to the start at Kempton. She showed herself a decent filly when winning at Haydock last time. Raise A King and Monte Lemos pose the biggest threat.

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW — BBC2

1.30: After being sidelined by a cough early in the season, **Marathon** has shown himself to be potentially decent and won a group three in decent style at Deauville five weeks ago. He is preferred to the consistent Decorated Hero.

2.05: Ashraakat possesses huge potential according to her trainer, John Dunlop, who has a decent record in this race. The Danzig filly should give a good account but André Fabre's unbeaten **Anna Palariva** has looked smart in both her starts.

2.40: Bags of speed here with Eveningperformance (best run last time) and Royal Applause liking to force the pace. However, British sprinters are nothing special this term and **Pas De Reponse** signalled her wellbeing when reverting to a sprint trip at Deauville in August.

3.20: see facing page.

Richard Evans

THUNDERER

2.15 Ela-Yie-Mou. 2.45 Barrow Creek. 3.15 Sky Rocket. 3.50 At Large. 4.25 Bala. 4.55 Virtuous. 5.25 Secret Ballot.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) ... SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 FUN FAIR HANDICAP
(£4,016: 1m 6f 15yd) (18 runners)

1	0155	SALSKA 65 (CD,F,G) A Streeter 6-9-10	J Fowle (7) 10
2	5004	TAUFAN BOY 24 P Harris 4-9-7	M Rimmer 17
3	005-	SHIFT AGAIN 168J (B,F) D Sherwood 5-9-6	Sophie Mitchell 4
4	5005	CASUAL WATER 17 (F,G) A Newcombe 6-9-6	S Drowne 11
5	6002	ALPINE PANTHER 7 Mrs M Reveley 4-9-4	A Culhane 16
6	2435	MOUNTAINEER 127 (BF) M Bell 3-9-4	G Faulkner (5) 18
7	3220	MYSTIC QUEST 108 (BF) K McAuliffe 3-9-4	M Tebbutt 14
8	4000	COPPER SHELL 17 A P Jones 3-9-2	P P Murphy (3) 15
9	0553	ELA-YIE-MOU 13 (CD,F) S Dow 4-9-2	P Doe (7) 1
10	-015	JAWAH 92 (D,S) K Mahdi 3-9-2	C Lowther (5) 7
11	3200	LIME STREET BLUES 17 (C,S) T Keddy 6-9-1	N Day 8
12	3161	VERONICA FRANCO 17 (D,F) P Hedger 4-8-12	A McGlone 6
13	0000	RIVAL BID 19 (F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-12	S Webster 9
14	0003-	MEILLEUR 28 Lady Herries 3-8-11	W Ryan 5
15	3003	MR SPECULATOR 14 (V,F) J Banks 4-8-10	J Quinn 2
16	1256	CHILDREN'S CHOICE 13 (B,F,G,S) W Musson 6-8-10	S Whitworth 3
17	3104	THE ROUNDSILLS 15 (G) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-5	J Stack 12
18	04-6	NEW INN 10 (CD,F,G) S Gollings 6-8-5	T Williams 13

6-1 Alpine Panther, 7-1 Veronica Franco, 8-1 Taufan Boy, Casual Water, 10-1 Mountaineer, Jawah, 12-1 others.

2.45 ROLLER COASTER MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,175: 6f 15yd) (10)

1		BARROW CREEK G Wragg 9-0	A Clark 5
2		DEMOCRAT M Prescott 9-0	C Nutter 9
3	3	MOZAMBIQUE 13 Mrs J Cecil 9-0	J Stack 4
4	284	NOBALINO 17 Mrs N Macauley 9-0	S Drowne 6
5	065	BEAUCATCHER 64 M Heaton-Ellis 8-9	R Perham 1
6	2-53	DARK MILE 17 (BF) J Gosden 8-9	A McGlone 2
7	00-	HAMLEYS 13 D Morris 8-9	N Day 7
8	0404	MELBOURNE PRINCESS 45 R Whitaker 8-9	Dean McKeown 3
9	4522	SILVER KRISTAL 13 R Akehurst 8-9	W Ryan 8
10	3222	TITHCAR 26 B Hanbury 8-9	C Lowther (5) 10

3-1 Silver Kristal, 4-1 Dark Mile, 9-2 Tithcar, 5-1 Mozambique, 8-1 Nobalino, 10-1 Barrow Creek, 12-1 Melbourne Princess, 14-1 others

3.15 LEVY BOARD DODGEMS MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,551: 6f 15yd) (17)

1	0	ALGEBRA 17 R Hannon 9-0	R Perham 5
2		BEDEVILLED M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	S Drowne 13
3		CROFTERS EDGE A Jarvis 9-0	C Lowther (5) 14
4		DOG WATCH J Gosden 9-0	A McGlone 12
5	46	GREAT MELODY 7 J Eustace 9-0	J Tate 10
6	00	HAVE A BREAK 48 C Egerton 9-0	S Whitworth 8
7		IL DESTINO P Makin 9-0	A Clark 7
8	-50	PERSIANO 19 J Fanshawe 9-0	N Day 15
9	0	PRINCE BATSHOOF 98 M Bell 9-0	A Culhane 3
10	02	RAY OF SUNSHINE 54 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	O Pears 1
11	0	SEVEN 22 B Smart 9-0	J Stack 2
12	2	SKY ROCKET 21 M Stoute 9-0	W Ryan 17
13		THE WOODCOCK B Hills 9-0	J D Smith (3) 8
14		GEM P Makin 8-9	A Clark 16
15		GIRLIE SET M Prescott 8-9	C Nutter 4
16	0	ONLY IN DREAMS 11 B Meehan 8-9	M Tebbutt 11
17		PRIDDY GREEN H Candy 8-9	C Rutter 9

4-6 Sky Rocket, 5-1 Ray Of Sunshine, 7-1 Dog Watch, 8-1 Persiano, 10-1 Prince Batshoof, The Woodcock, 20-1 Algebra, Great Melody, Girlie Set, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 20 winners from 69 runners, 29.0%; M Prescott, 12 from 42, 28.6%; J Gosden, 10 from 43, 23.3%; P Makin, 8 from 39, 20.5%; Mrs J Cecil, 6 from 31, 19.4%; J Dunlop, 20 from 119, 16.8%; W Brisbourne, 3 from 18, 16.7%; J Fanshawe, 8 from 52, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: W Ryan, 15 winners from 133 rides, 11.3%; A Clark, 7 from 63, 11.1%; R Havlin, 3 from 27, 11.1%; A McGlone, 8 from 74, 10.8%. Only qualifiers.

3.50 AUTUMN HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,995: 6f) (14)

1	2501	DISTINCTIVE DREAM 12 (B,D,F,G) K Ivory 9-7	C Lowther (5) 11
2	2030	CHILI CONCERTO 58 (B,G) P Makin 9-4	W Ryan 10
3	3032	AT LARGE 17 J Fanshawe 9-1	N Day 9
4	0600	ZUGUDI 6 (D,F) K Mahdi 9-1	M Rimmer 5
5	0020	CAUTION 2 (D,F) S Gollings 9-0	T Williams 1
6	0531	LEVELLED 6 (D,F,G) M Channon 9-0	P P Murphy (3) 14
7	6606	SWINO 10 (F) P Evans 8-13	A Culhane 4
8	4500	LOVING AND GIVING 12 (B,F) H Candy 8-12	C Rutter 2
9	1300	ROFFEY SPINNEY 56 (D) R Hannon 8-11	R Perham 8
10	1100	RUM LAD 32 (D,F,S) J J Quinn 8-9	S Drowne 13
11	3000	FREDERICK JAMES 78 M Heaton-Ellis 8-9	A Clark 12
12	5510	MOUCHE 6 (CD,F) Mrs J Ramsden 8-8	Dean McKeown 6
13	0430	SYLVAN DANCER 44 C Wall 7-11	Dale Gibson 7
14	3438	SUITE FACTORS 8 (C,F) K Burke 7-10	J Quinn 3

11-2 Mouche, 13-2 Distinctive Dream, 7-1 At Large, Levelled, 15-2 Caution, 10-1 Roffey Spinney, 12-1 Loving And Giving, Rum Lad, 14-1 others.

4.25 MERRY-GO-ROUND NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,470: 5f 13yd) (16)

1	0133	HIGH GAIN 50 (D,F) P Howling 9-7	C Rutter 16
2	005	NIGHT AUCTION 11 B Palling 9-6	R Havlin (3) 3
3	0041	KETTLESING 16 (B,D,S) M W Easterby 9-3	G Parkin (3) 4
4	501	TAKE A RISK 18 (D,F) M Johnston 9-3	Dean McKeown 15
5	0450	ALLASELLA 19 B Palling 9-1	N Day 2
6	630	BALA 53 H Morrison 9-1	W Ryan 13
7	500	ZEPPO 14 (V) M Heaton-Ellis 9-1	S Drowne 8
8	004	RITA'S ROCK APE 18 R Brotherton 9-1	P P Murphy (3) 6
9	6300	WISHBONE ALLEY 37 M Dods 9-0	A Culhane 10
10	000	I CRIED FOR YOU 32 R Hannon 9-0	R Perham 1
11	040	MERCURY FALLING 53 D Arbuthnot 8-13	S Whitworth 7
12	0200	KATHIES PET 31 R Hodges 8-10	J Quinn 9
13	060	WILD LILLY 105 M Ryan 8-9	A Clark 11
14	0500	MARIANA 12 (V) R Whitaker 8-8	J Stack 12
15	0000	ELSINORE 19 Mrs J Ramsden 8-7	DOUBTFUL 5
16	065	KANTONE 55 (B) J Eustace 8-2	J Tate 14

5-1 Kettlesing, 6-1 Take A Risk, 7-1 High Gain, 8-1 I Cried For You, Elsinore, 10-1 Kathies Pet, Mariana, 12-1 others.

4.55 EBF HELTER SKELTER MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,598: 1m 54yd) (14)

1		ABSENTEE W Jarvis 8-11	M Tebbutt 4
2	60	FRECKLES 44 (B) M Ryan 8-11	A Clark 10
3	0	KIERANS BRIDGE 11 A Jarvis 8-11	C Lowther (5) 11
4	0	LA GALLERIA 14 J S Moore 8-11	P P Murphy (3) 6
5	44	MAREEBA 38 M Johnston 8-11	Dean McKeown 3
6	54	MIGRATE 98 (BF) J Gosden 8-11	A Garth 9
7		MISS LACROIX R Hollinshead 8-11	D Hayden (7) 2
8	0	ON CALL 11 M Prescott 8-11	C Nutter 5
9	0	PERFECT LADY 11 J Eustace 8-11	J Tate 8
10		RABEA J Dunlop 8-11	M Rimmer 13
11	5584	RIKAYYA 18 B Hanbury 8-11	J Stack 1
12	0254	RELATE 16 W Meade 8-11	R Havlin (3) 7
13		TAJAWUZ S bin Suroor 8-11	A McGlone 14
14	34	VIRTUOUS 23-M Stoute 8-11	W Ryan 12

7-4 Virtuous, 3-1 Tajawuz, 6-1 Migrate, 10-1 On Call, Rikayya, 12-1 Mareeba, 20-1 Absentee, Rabea, Relate, 25-1 others

5.25 CAROUSEL LIMITED STAKES
(£3,062: 1m 1f 213yd) (15)

1	3433	AUGUSTAN 11 (D,F,S) S Gollings 6-9-8	T Williams 7
2	0100	HILL FARM BLUES 82 (CD,F,G) W M Brisbourne 4-9-5	A Garth 8
3	1205	PASSING STRANGERS 8 (F) P Harris 4-9-5	A Clark 10
4	040-	CLASSIC COLOURS 208J G Yardley 4-9-2	V Slattery 13
5	0-00	POLONAISE PRINCE 14 V Soane 4-9-2	C Rutter 15
6	003-	YAVERLAND 390 John Berry 5-9-2	M Tebbutt 9
7	400-	ZAALEFF 432 K Mahdi 5-9-2	J Stack 4
8	1400	SECRET BALLOT 18 (CD,S) K Mahdi 3-9-0	M Rimmer 14
9	1100	ONEFORTHEDITCH 18 J Fanshawe 4-8-13	N Varley 1
10	2000	AFICIONADO 116 (G) R Hodges 3-8-11	J Quinn 3
11	6431	FALLS O'MONESS 15 (S) K Burke 3-8-11	C Lowther (5) 5
12	0809	JINIKAY 18 (G) R Ingram 3-8-11	A McGlone 2
13	3003	ORTELIUS 8 (F) R Hannon 3-8-11	R Perham 11
14	6002	ARIETTY 12 (B) H Cecil 3-8-8	W Ryan 6
15	0443	SMART SPIRIT 77 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 3-8-8	A Culhane 12

4-1 Arietty, 9-2 Smart Spirit, 11-2 Falls O'Moness, 7-1 Onefortheditch, 8-1 Augustan, Secret Ballot, 10-1 Passing Strangers, Ortelius, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Chepstow: 2.40 Fasil. 3.10 Dromhana. Newmarket: 2.20 Jilted. 3.35 Angel Chimes. 5.20 Gain Line. Nottingham: 3.50 Chili Concerto. 4.25 Manana, Zeppo. Uttoxeter: 3.00 The Shy Padre. 4.00 Danger Baby. Wolverhampton: 9.00 Poetto, Russian Romeo.

Haami is back on classic trail

HAAMI redeemed his tarnished reputation with a workmanlike victory in the Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket yesterday, and re-entered the 2,000 Guineas reckoning in the process.

After convincing victories on his first two outings, the well-related Nashwan colt had then disappointed when favourite for the group three Solario Stakes at Sandown in August and was pushed out to a general 33-1 for next year's classic.

But after his 5-1 success in yesterday's seven-furlong listed event it transpired that he had been suffering from a sore throat at the Esher track.

Haami and Richard Hills went to the front a furlong out in company with Bintang and forged ahead to gain a 1½-length win and a 16-1 Guineas quote from the Tote.

Though never one for excuses, winning trainer John Dunlop was keen to set the record straight. Looking back to Haami's Sandown run, Dunlop said: "He didn't run a race in any way similar to his first two, or indeed today's. When we got him home we scoped him and found he had a dirty throat and a bit of an infection. The ground was also softer and I should think he is better on faster ground — he is a very good mover."

"I wouldn't think he would run again," he added. "Ask Sheikh Hamdan and see what he says. I might say he would run in the Dewhurst, but I think he might disagree with me."

Nap: SILK ST JOHN
(3.35 Newmarket)
Next best: Risque Lady
(4.45 Newmarket)

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

2.30 Hisar. 3.00 Edgemoor Prince. 3.30 Talathath. 4.00 Danger Baby. 4.35 Nishamira. 5.05 Cardinal Rule. 5.35 Optimism Reigns.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.30 NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,337: 2m) (9 runners)

1	/0P-	BRANDON BRIDGE 196 D Geraghty 6-10-11	R Supple
2	34-3	CAPTAIN MARMALADE 6F D Thom 8-10-11	R Massey (3)
3	3/F-	KEDGE ANCHOR MAN 329 A Foster 6-10-11	N Williamson
4		OBELOS 9F Miss S Wilton 6-10-11	D Gallagher
5	04P/	OUR MAIN MAN 14F (S) R Whitaker 7-10-11	R Garritty
6		SOUND THE TRUMPET 29F R Spicer 5-10-11	M Sharratt
7		TANIYAR 10F R Hollinshead 5-10-11	Gary Lyons
8	022-	HISAR 9F C Brooks 4-10-10	G Bradley
9		MACHALINI 97F T George 4-10-10	A Maguire

7-4 Hisar, 9-2 Captain Marmalade 5-1 Obelos, 7-1 Taniyar 8-1 others

3.00 STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES CHASE
(£5,022: 3m) (5)

1	014-	EDGEMOOR PRINCE 203 (BF,F,G,S) P Hobbs 6-11-0	A Maguire
2	-453	LITTLE TINCTURE 11 (D,F) Mrs T Michaels Slemer 7-11-0	G Upton
3	01-P	THE H'PENNY MARVEL 112 (D,S) T George 7-11-0	R Thornton (3)
4	P-33	THE SHY PADRE 11 (V) M Pitman 8-11-0	J Culloty
5	/2UV	TRIMAGE 581P M J Pomfret 9-11-0	W Marston

2-7 Edgemoor Prince 6-1 The Shy Padre, 10-1 Little Tincture, 16-1 others

3.30 SENTINEL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,981: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1	004-	HOME COUNTIES 7F (D,G,S) D Moffatt 8-12-0	D J Moffatt
2	12-1	TALATHATH 7 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-6	A Maguire
3	0/2-	JALCANTO 366 (D,F) R Juckes 7-11-1	Gary Lyons
4	1251	MR MORIARTY 6 (C,F,G,S) S Bowring 6-10-12	T Dascombe (3)
5	15-0	I'M A DREAMER 15 (F,G) Miss M Rowland 7-10-9	R Thornton (3)
6	311-	LOUGH TULLY 213 (D,S) F Jordan 7-10-7	A P McCoy
7	05-3	BEND SABLE 7 (F,G,S) B Stronge 7-10-3	J Culloty
8	-132	BODANTREE 13 (F) N Babbage 6-10-0	B Fenton

6-4 Talathath, 9-2 Mr Moriarty, 6-1 Home Counties, 7-1 Bodantree, 8-1 others.

4.00 BRITANNIA BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,808: 3m 2f) (5)

1	354-	ACT OF PARLIAMENT 155 (B,F,G,S) K Bailey 9-12-0	N Williamson
2	25-1	CAROLE'S CRUSADER 21 (D,F,G) D Gandolfo 6-11-11	A Maguire
3	4P4-	MAJOR LOOK 225 (C,F) S Brookshaw 9-11-0	A Dobbin
4	24-1	DANGER BABY 7 (B,F,G,S) P Bowen 7-10-9	A P McCoy
5	031U	THE GOPHER 7 (D,F,G,S) D Wintle 8-10-9	W Marston

7-4 Carole's Crusader, 3-7 Danger Baby, 4-1 Act Of Parliament, 11-2 The Gopher, 6-1 Major Look.

4.35 STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,347: 2m) (5)

1	11-2	NORDIC BREEZE 95F (BF,CD,F,S) M Pipe 5-12-0	A P McCoy
2	01-1	DANEGOLD 21 (D,F,G) M Channon 5-11-8	A Thornton
3	4-11	NISHAMIRA 7 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 5-10-13	A Maguire
4	/0-6	SYLVAN SABRE 13 (CD,F,G) D Shaw 8-10-6	A S Smith
5	045-	SAINT CIEL 15F (CD,G,S) F Jordan 9-10-4	R Supple

7-4 Nishamira, 2-1 Danegold, 5-2 Nordic Breeze, 10-1 Saint Ciel, 33-1 Sylvan Sabre

5.05 QUEENS ROYAL LANCERS CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,026: 2m 4f) (4)

1	P2P-	FACTOR TEN 126 (C,F,G) Miss H Knight 9-12-0	J F Titley
2	1P4-	COOLREE 197 (D,F,G,S) J King 9-11-1	Mr J Tizzard (5)
3	/F-3	SPEAKER WEATHERILL 7 (D,F,G) O Brennan 8-11-0	M Brennan
4	21-3	CARDINAL RULE 21 (BF,G,S) Miss V Williams 8-10-3	N Williamson

6-4 Cardinal Rule, 2-1 Factor Ten, 7-2 Coolree, 6-1 Speaker Weatherill.

5.35 GREENUN (SPORTS FINAL) NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,086: 2m 6f 110yd) (8)

1	-521	BLASTER WATSON 13 (G) C Smith 6-11-3	M Ranger
2	0/01	SCARLET RAMBLER 11 (F) Miss H Knight 8-11-3	J Culloty
3	02-0	CONNEL'S CROFT 21 T Keddy 5-10-11	G Upton
4	PP-6	FELLOO 21 T George 8-10-11	T Jenks
5	54/	FINNURE 511P F Jordan 5-10-11	R Supple
6	022-	LORD KHALICE 218 (BF) G Hubbard 6-10-11	R Elkins (7)
7	216-	OPTIMISM REIGNS 280 (S) N Chance 6-10-11	A P McCoy
8	1-	CASTLE ARROW 181P (F) C Mann 4-10-10	J Magee (3)

9-4 Scarlet Rambler, 3-1 Lord Khalice, 9-2 Optimism Reigns, 11-2 Castle Arrow, 7-1 Blaster Watson, 16-1 Felloo, Finnure, 20-1 Connel's Croft.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Soft Touch. 7.30 Bold Aristocrat. 8.00 Farmost. 8.30 Glow Forum. 9.00 Rare Indigo. 9.30 Hannah's Usher.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

7.00 PINK ICE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,070: 6f) (13 runners)

1		BEST OF OUR DAYS C Thornton 9-0	Dean McKeown 12
2	02U4	BOUND TO PLEASE 36 P Makin 9-0	D Holland 6
3	00	CRITICAL AIR 8 M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield 3
4	0	HAPPY WANDERER 9 P Haslam 9-0	Dale Gibson 2
5	500	PRESS AHEAD 25 B McMahon 9-0	L Newton 13
6	0	THIRD COUSIN 42 M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	S Drowne 4
7	530	ARBENIG 24 B Palling 8-9	D Sweeney (3) 9
8	63	LADY ALMITRA 8 C Hill 8-9	R Mullen (5) 5
9		MAMBLE'S PENSION A Bailey 8-9	D Wright 11
10	00	MRS PICKLES 30 M Usher 8-9	J Marshall 7
11	3453	REWARDIA 10 P Evans 8-9	Paul Eddery 1
12	0	SILKEN DALLIANCE 11 Lord Huntingdon 8-9	Dane O'Neill 10
13	0224	SOFT TOUCH 25 Miss G Kelleway 8-9	A Whelan (3) 8

15-8 Soft Touch, 5-1 Rewardia, 8-1 Bound To Please, Lady Almitra, 10-1 others

7.30 AMETHYST CLAIMING STAKES
(£1,932: 7f) (12)

1	2050	EFFERVESCENCE 17 (D) R Hannon 3-9-6	Dane O'Neill 10
2	6000	JUST LOUI 25 (CD) K Burke 3-9-6	R Mullen (5) 7
3	0035	PERICLES 4 (CD,S) M Johnston 3-9-6	D Holland 5
4	0614	GREATEST 53 (B,D,F) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-4	G Duffield 2
5	5010	OBERON'S DART 30 (CD) P Makin 4-9-4	Paul Eddery 6
6	1300	TEA PARTY 21 (B,CD,S) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-3	S Drowne 8
7	6040	MOVE WITH EDES 61 (CD) W Turner 5-8-12	D Sweeney (3) 12
8	3544	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 26 R Hollinshead 6-8-10	A Culhane 9
9	0000	MY GODSON 26 (B,D,F,S) M Dods 7-8-10	C Teague (3) 3
10	3000	ROCK ISLAND LINE 23 (D,F,S) J Berry 3-8-8	C Lowther (5) 4
11	4500	COUNTLESS TIMES 25 W Muir 3-8-6	Jo Hunnam (5) 11
12	2035	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 50 (D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 9-8-6	S Whitworth 1

9-2 Greatest, 11-2 Oberon's Dart, 6-1 Pericles, 7-1 Tea Party, 8-1 others.

8.00 CARL LLEWELLYN MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(£3,101: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1	4611	FARMOST 4 (CD,F,S) M Prescott 4-10-8 (6ex)	G Duffield 13
2	2300	HEIGHTH OF FAME 4 (C) J Hetherton 6-9-9	M Tebbutt 8
3	4600	WEET AND SEE 71 (C) R Hollinshead 3-9-5	D Griffiths (3) 11
4	0200	ZERMATT 14 (F,S) M Usher 7-9-2	N Adams 2
5	6080	KRISTAL BRIDGE 12 (B) P Harris 3-9-2	W J O'Connor 6
6	5-00	NEWBRIDGE BOY 97 (C) M Meagher 4-9-1	J F Egan 7
7	654R	GROVEFAIR LAD 42 S Bowring 3-9-0	C Teague (3) 3
8	0800	CAPTAIN'S DAY 131 (F,G) H Collingridge 5-9-0	G Faulkner (5) 12
9	6400	PERPETUAL LIGHT 16 J J Quinn 4-8-13	S Drowne 4
10	24-8	CLASSIC FORM 82 I Campbell 4-8-13	A Mackay 1
11	2504	BONNE VILLE 50 (C) B Palling 3-8-12	R Havlin (3) 5
12	R-00	THALEROS 19 (F) J Wainwright 7-8-11	Dean McKeown 10
13	5612	LEGAL ISSUE 32 (C,F,G,S) W Haigh 5-8-10	A Culhane 9

5-2 Farmost, 4-1 Legal Issue, 6-1 Kristal Bridge, 8-1 Zermatt, 10-1 others.

8.30 DIAMOND HANDICAP
(£5,495: 1m 4f) (12)

1	4040	NIGHT CITY 14 (S) K Burke 6-9-13	D Sweeney (3) 4
2	63-0	ARCTIC THUNDER 6 (D,F,G,S) B Palling 6-9-12	Dane O'Neill 11
3	1061	OPERA BUFF 8 (CD,F) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-12	J Wilkinson (7) 10
4	4350	CHINA CASTLE 50 (C,D) P Haslam 4-9-5	P Goode (7) 3
5	0335	HILL FARM DANCER 117 (CD) W Brisbourne 6-9-1	D Griffiths (3) 5
6	640-	CLASSIC EAGLE 344 (S) I Campbell 4-9-1	A Mackay 6
7	1560	GLOW FORUM 12 (CD,F,S) L Montague Hall 6-8-13	R Ffrench (3) 8
8	4530	POLAR CHAMP 24 (V,F,S) S Woods 4-8-12	G Duffield 12
9	7153	MISTER ASPECTO 37 (V,D,F) M Johnston 4-8-12	D Holland 7
10	3030	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 17 (B,C,G) J Leigh 6-8-10	C Teague (3) 9
11	0051	MASTER MILLFIELD 8 (C,F) C Hill 5-8-6	R Mullen (5) 1
12	-523	BONNIE LASSIE 129 (BF) C Thornton 3-7-13	L Charnock 2

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3	1365	ROCK FROM THE SUN 14 (B) W G M Turner 8-11	D Sweeney (3) 5
4	5501	SUPER GEIL 26 (D) C Dwyer 8-11	D Holland 4
5	0	ABSTONE PET GIRL 4 P Evans 8-6	J F Egan 7
6	3430	I'M NOT SURE 26 (BF) J Berry 8-6	N Adams 2
7	504	RARE INDIGO 19 J Berry 8-6	C Lowther (5) 6
8	60	REMEMBER FRIMLEY 6 C Hill 8-6	R Mullen (5) 3
9	4602	SATIS 4 M Channon 8-6	A Culhane 1

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3	0262	THORDIS 50 (V,D,F,G) P Makin 4-9-9	D Holland 3
4	1240	VILLAGE NATIVE 4 (B,C,D,F) K C-Brown 4-9-9	P P Murphy (3) 8
5	54-6	HURGILL TIMES 266 D Shaw 3-9-8	J Fanning 10
6	0304	HANNAH'S USHER 14 (CD,F,G) C Murray 5-9-7	Nicola Howarth 12
7	0220	DON'T WORRY MIKE 19 J Spearing 3-9-7	A Culhane 5
8	3004	WILL TO WIN 23 (CD) P Murphy 3-9-6	S Drowne 4
9	0000	LEIGH CROFTER 14 (C,D,P,B,S) P Cundell 8-9-5	R Perham 11
10	0020	LITTLE IBNR 14 (CD,F) P Cundell 6-9-5	J Lowe 1
11	0000	CROESO CYNNES 19 (D,F,G) B Palling 4-9-5	Dane O'Neill 13
12	-000	BICTON PARK 26 (B) K Comerford 3-9-4	W J O'Connor 9
13	-210	FIGLIA 26 (B,C) J L Harris 3-9-4	Dean McKeown 2

7-2 Gadge, 5-1 Thordis, 7-1 Little Ibnr, 8-1 Hannah's Usher, Will To Win, Figlia, 10-1 Village Native, 12-1 others.

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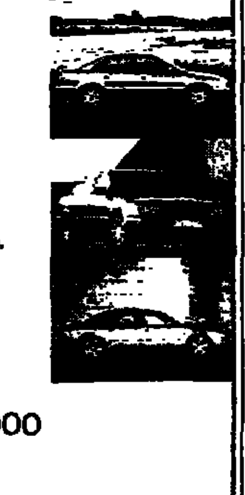

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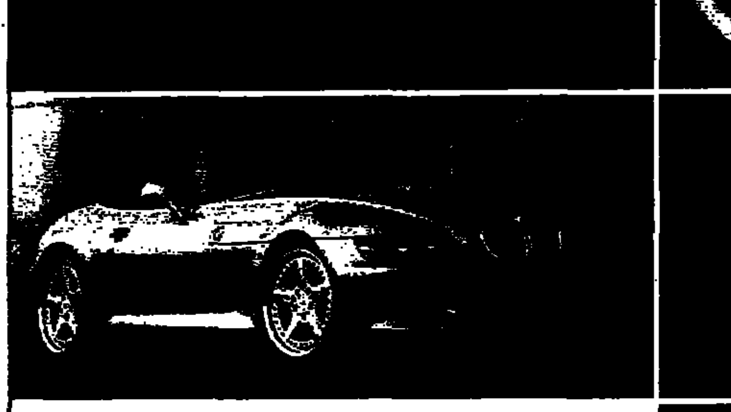

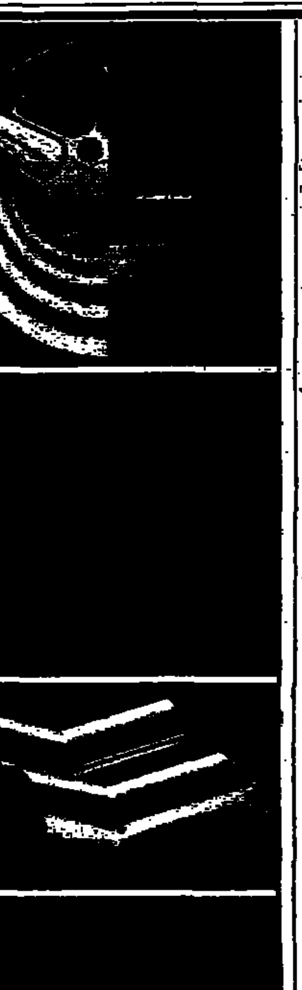

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THE SECTION FOR CARS, BIKES, BOATS AND EVERYONE ON THE MOVE

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Revival of the Vincent mystique

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Barnard goes for broke in a boat

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Tragedy and farce on longest rally

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 1997

Beauty sails back into style

Fine lines are returning to boat design after a decade of yachts disfigured at berth, says **Edward Gorman**

Ugly cruising yachts *seem at last* to be coming to *an end*. After years of fat, top-heavy boats that have disfigured marinas and anchorages, *designers* and manufacturers are *beginning* to respond to demand for more aesthetically pleasing craft.

The cruising market in the 1980s and early 1990s saw a *proliferation of designs where* the priority was internal volume and accommodation. More caravans than sailing thoroughbreds, these yachts sacrificed *looks* and sailing *performance in the scramble* to cram as much space below decks as possible.

But increasingly the trend has been towards a more *refined approach to design*, with a return to traditional styling and the kind of good looks evident in racing and cruising yachts of the late 1960s and early 1970s. *It seems that Britain's cruising yachts*men are beginning to be a little more discerning in their purchasing habits and now want to buy yachts that are not only *pleasing to the eye, but sail* well too.

At the recent Southampton Boat Show, perhaps the ultimate in a good-looking medium-sized cruiser *made* her debut. The Victoria 38 is an out and out thing of beauty, with fine-ended lines to fall in love with.

She is the latest and biggest model from Victoria Yachts based at Warsash, Hampshire, an independent builder that has thrived on the successful 26ft Victoria 800 and Victoria 34. Like them, the 38 was drawn by US designer Chuck Paine, with a brief to produce a strong, classic-looking, blue-water cruiser.

The show boat, *Jumbly Girl*, with her distinctive burgundy red topsides, was the first to take to the water in April. Her owners, Chris and Julia Wood *from Alton in Hampshire*, are delighted with their new boat, which they cruised to Ireland this summer, and which replaced their roomier but less *attractive Westerly 38*. "The aesthetics were very important to us," said Mr Wood. "We'd seen drawings and thought it looked very nice, and usually what *looks nice, sails well*."

The 38's full-bodied hull has a long fin and skeg design below the waterline. The deck consists of laid teak glued on to fibreglass, and the fibreglass *cabin sides are offset with* traditional teak trim.

In a number of ways *Jumbly Girl*'s configuration might not suit everyone — for instance, *the* well-proportioned coach roof looked a little too cluttered, with lines running aft — but Victoria Yachts custom-build the boat to each owner's specification so there is plenty *of room for input during the* layout stage.

The 38 has a spacious and bright main saloon, but don't expect unlimited accommodation. With a fine *stern* and cockpit floor at waterline level, the aft area makes for only a smallish double or single berth to port and a heads with *sit-down shower to starboard*. In the main saloon there is a well thought-out galley to port opposite a chart table big enough to take a full-sized *Admiralty chart*.

The *forecabin* on *Jumbly Girl* was given over to a double berth in a layout geared for two-person cruising, *though the design allows* for between five or seven berths in total.

Bob Hathaway, co-founder of Victoria Yachts, said: "I think people are gradually *realising how much better* a boat this shape sails than one with a wide stern, and how much safer you feel in a cockpit at deck level. "We can't *possibly justify the price of this* boat, or any other in our range, against simple criteria like berth count or sailing performance. We build these exquisitely and people buy them because they look beautiful."

DESIGNERS NOW TRADE CABIN SIZE FOR LOOKS

BILL DIXON, one of Britain's leading designers of cruising yachts both at the luxury end of the *market and for off-the-shelf* manufacturers like Moody, has no doubt that tastes are changing and for the better.

"I think people are prepared *to compromise* on some of their requirements to ensure that a boat looks right — that is the important thing," he says. "The boat *market is very customer-led* and we are now doing what I call a more elegant, timeless look to a lot of our boats. The constant comment *is* people saying, '*When* we leave *our* boat *and* row away in the dinghy, we want to be proud of it.'"

Dixon: tastes are improving

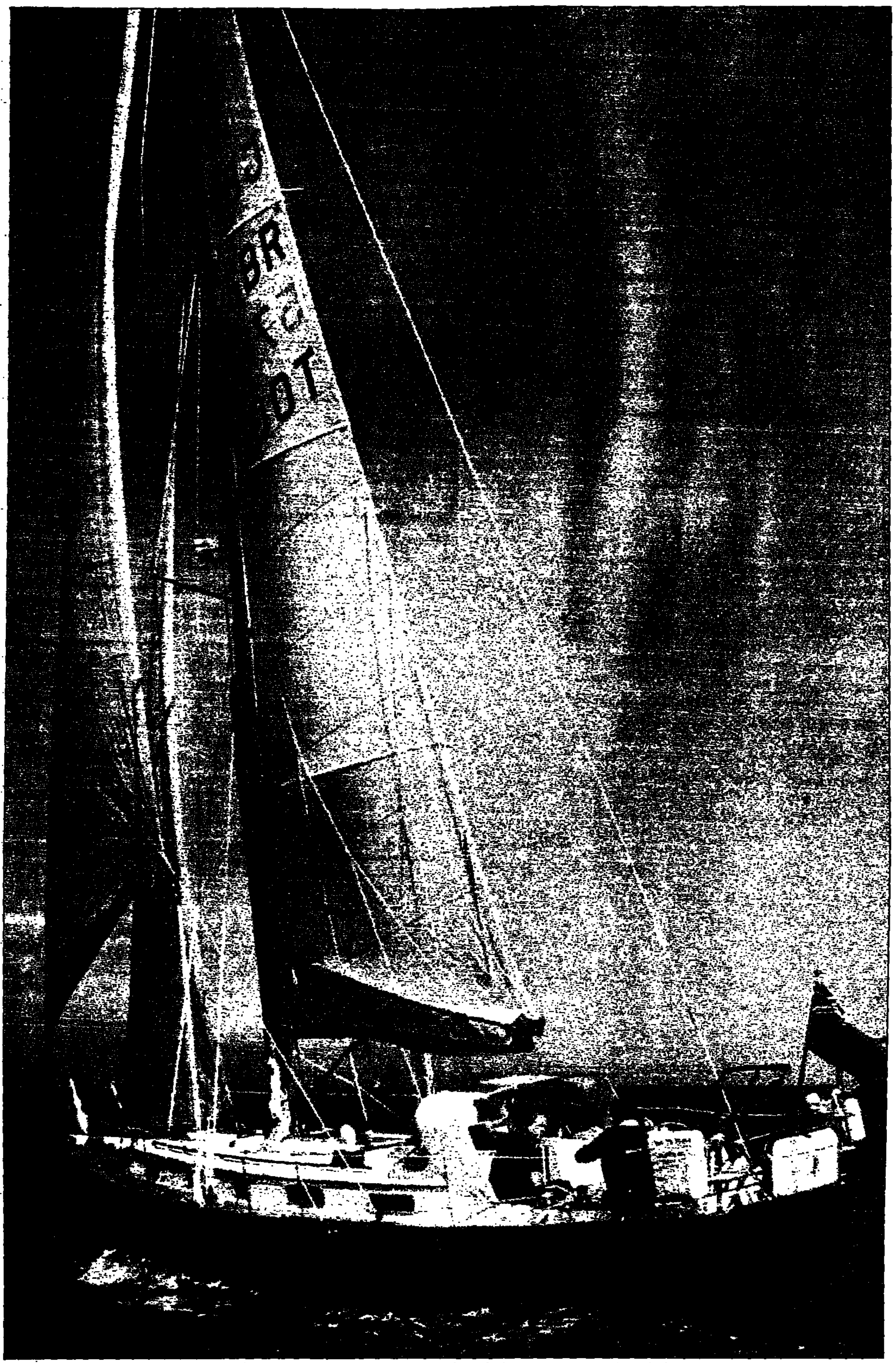
Dixon argues that cruising owners are often buying a yacht they expect to keep for 20 years or more and *so want something which not only looks* good today but will do so well into the next century too.

Significantly his new Moodys — the 36, 40 and 46 — feature bulwarks and teak caprails. "We are going for a *blend of modern* looks and well trusted and tried features which I think people like," he says.

Ed Dubois, another top British designer, whose work has included the Westerly range, believes the in*dustry itself must* bear *some* responsibility for the rash of inelegance that swept through cruising design in the late 1970s and 80s. "*Designers* and *builders* have a lot to answer for. It was a lot easier to make something ugly rather than pretty, dollar for dollar."

He says that during that period many people came into boat ownership for the first time, often with untested ideas about *what might suit them or what their priorities* in a good cruising boat ought to be. One perception was that interior space or berth counts was the key and everything else was secondary.

But he believes that things are gradually changing as the market has matured. "What has happened is that the people in the market now have been around far longer and are perhaps more *discerning about what* is elegant or what is classic, and some definitely want something that is a classic boat," Dubois says.



Victoria 38: an out and out thing of beauty, with lines to fall in love with. The blue-water cruiser has all the feel of a proper sailing yacht

Mister Bean gets strangled by red tape: a sad tale of terrible import

Eve-Ann Prentice reports on an enthusiast's nightmare

Frustrated: retired pilot Jeffrey Gray with memorabilia

As a retired airline pilot, Jeffrey Gray knows all too well that a return air fare from Britain to Australia can be cheaper than a standard return from London to Rome.

Yet even Gray is stunned by the red tape that has left him paying more to bring a car 100 miles from Felixstowe docks to Slough than it has cost to transport the vehicle more than 10,000 miles from Melbourne, Australia, back to the shores of England, the country where it was made in the first place.

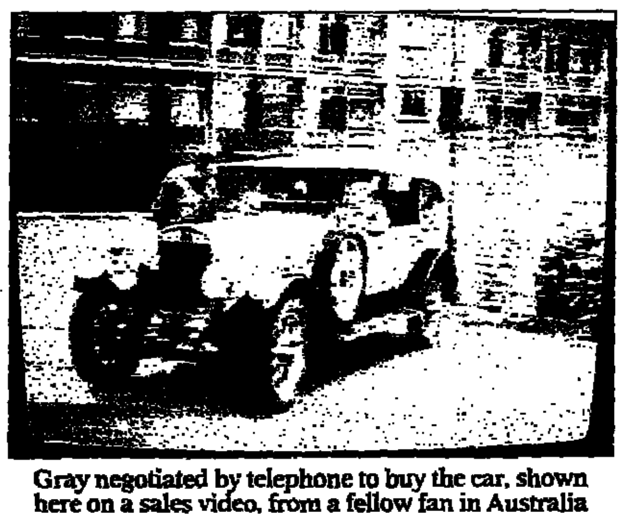
Gray, a Second World War RAF bomber pilot *who spent 40 years flying airliners*, is besotted with cars made by the Bean car company in the 1920s, so was delighted to learn that one of the only six surviving *18* horsepower, six-cylinder models was being sold by its owner in Australia.

Bean cars were made popular in the Antipodes when Australian Francis Birtles became *a celebrity by driving* one from the UK back to his homeland in the 1930s. Crowds gathered along the route to autograph his car and write *slogans on it during the marathon*.

The odyssey made the marque synonymous in Australian minds with style and ruggedness, bringing Bean cars a period of huge popularity *on the far side of the world*.

Gray saw a 1927 Bean during a visit to Melbourne just over a year ago and even managed to have a drive in it. Months later, back in England, he was euphoric to see it *advertised for sale in the Bean* Car Club magazine. He negotiated by telephone to buy it and arrangements were made to ship the car back to its country of origin.

The freight cost was *just over £1,000 . . . then the prob*lems started when the ex-bomber pilot tried to collect his pride and joy from Felixstowe *docks*. The shipping agent had muddled paperwork for the Customs and Excise, says *Gray, and instead* of being classified as a collector's piece over 30 years old and liable to zero import duty and just 2½ per cent VAT, the Bean was deemed to be effectively a *new import — a car being brought into the country by an owner* who had bought it less than six months before.



Gray negotiated by telephone to buy the car, shown here on a sales video, from a fellow fan in Australia

This left it liable to tax of 10 per cent of the car's value plus 17½ per cent VAT — making a total of £1,016 duty payable, *more than the cost of shipping* the vehicle from Australia.

"Bean cars were made in the Black Country, but the company collapsed when they changed their approach. They *tried to upgrade, but lost their* existing *customers* and did not find enough new ones," says Gray, of Farnham Common near Slough.

"A Sheffield steel company tried to rescue the company, but that lasted only a couple of years," he adds.

Gray, who was an airline *captain for BA and its predecessor*, BOAC, has also been left waiting since September 7, when the car arrived in Felixstowe, for HM Customs and Excise to clear a cheque *for the duty and allow the car to reach him*.

Gray had contacted Customs and Excise officers before the car arrived at Felixstowe, was told of the two rates of duty payable on *incoming* cars, *and advised that he should* classify it as a collector's item more than 30 years old. Customs and Excise also provided him with the relevant form, which he says he gave to the import agents along with all *documentation* needed.

Robert Briggs, Managing Director of Interpack Worldwide, the shipping agents that handled the import of the Bean, *seemed unaware of the* details of Gray's case. "To claim the lower rate of import duty we must supply forms, we need all sorts of documentation," he said.

When it was pointed out that Gray had done this, Briggs offered to go back to Customs and Excise and apply *for the lower import tax rate to* be payable.

He did not realise that Gray had already paid the full rate of duty and was in no mood to wait *for what might amount to weeks while a new application* for exemption was made to Customs and Excise.

Delivery was promised for this week, as we *went to press, but Gray's hopes dwindled as time* began to pass.

"They have now told me it might have to be tomorrow," he said. "Interpack say they have only just got the papers *back from Customs and they did not sound too hopeful*. I feel very sad, there are times when I really feel like giving up on it."

"I was going to have a party to celebrate the Bean's arrival," *says Gray gloomily*, "but by the fourth week *after its* arrival here, the last thing I feel like is a party . . . Did Mr Briggs say when my car was going to be delivered?"

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Avast expense! Messing about in a small vessel is the least of the fun: buying the thing, storing it and making modifications will land you all at sea

How to sink your money in a boat

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

Now that this column has been *released* from the confines of the open road, there arises the opportunity to make forays into *the world* of what is known as sailing to the serious types who recently set off around the world in the Whitbread race. It is known as boating to the rest of us.

Sailing and boating are very different. Sailing usually involves going somewhere, often somewhere quite a long way away, and then coming back again. Boating, the ultimate triumph of hope over experience, involves much shorter journeys, if any.

Having owned nearly as many boats as I have cars, I can vouch for the attractions of going afloat. It also happens that autumn is the ideal time to start looking for a boat, because the market is fairly slow, dealers have more time on their hands and prices tend to be lower: people would rather reduce the price of a boat than have to pay to store it all winter.

You may have read the preceding sentence and thought that it made perfect sense. Unfortunately, so does the following: spring is the ideal time to start looking for a boat because there are plenty around, thus creating a competitive market, and it would be foolish to buy in the winter because you then have to pay for storage.

These conflicting pieces of advice can quickly be distilled: there is no bad time to buy a boat and *there is no good time to sell one.* The boat you bought two years ago from a dealer who said that it broke his heart to sell this uniquely lovely vessel as he had hoped to put it in storage until his grandson, now aged three weeks, graduated from Oxford University, now becomes (in the opinion of the same dealer) a type of vessel for which there is absolutely no demand. In this respect, boats and cars are interchangeable.

In searching for a suitable vessel you will get lots of advice as to the building material, mostly a choice between glass reinforced plastic (GRP), known disparagingly as Tupperware, and wood. The worst that can happen to wood is that it will rot. The worst that can happen to GRP is that it will suffer from osmosis, a sort of plastic acne. Some people buy wooden boats and sheath them in plastic, thus achieving the best of both worlds: rot wrapped in osmosis.

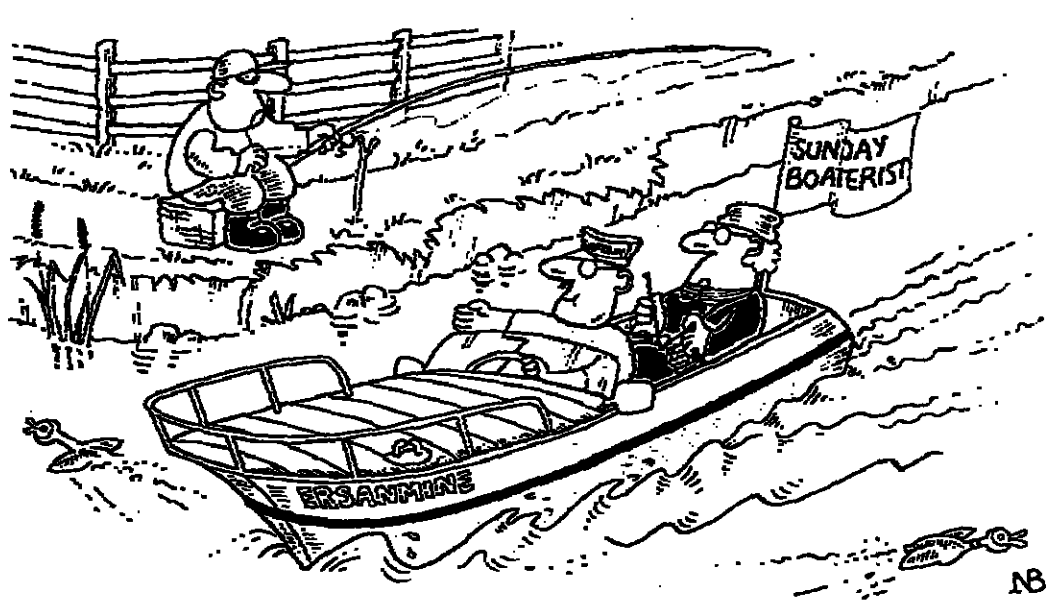
How large a boat do you need? This depends on how large an overdraft you can negotiate. A boat over about 20ft long is not really practical for towing, unless you are the managing director of National Breakdown. If you buy a cabin cruiser you will probably want to moor it in a marina, whose charges are shown in pounds per foot, although an arm and a leg are more appropriate.

There are "extras" in marinas that need to be borne in mind. Obviously you have bought the boat in order to make long voyages to exciting places, and to this end you will have invested in charts and pilot books. But the other 364 days of the year will be spent tied up in the marina, so you will need *mains electricity, propane gas,* vast quantities of food and drink and, most important, access to a DIY store.

Why so? Why, because the boat on which you have just lavished more money than you ever spent *on a car, a boat that was lovingly* designed by teams of men and women working day *and night for* three years, a boat built by craftsmen, requires a number of "improvements" once it gets into your hands.

These improvements will cost a fortune, but think what they will do to the value of the boat. With luck, they will make no difference whatsoever to its value: you will have bought a Bohalong 27 worth £X *and two years later,* after rebuilding the interior, sawing through your right thumb, drowning the family dog and mortgaging the house, you will have a boat worth, er, £X.

None of which will persuade you to give up boating. It will merely persuade you that you should have bought that boat over there: slightly more expensive, granted, but what an investment.



Vincent's twin legend is reborn

John Naish on RTV's vintage new superbike

The *spirit of* a legendary British superbike is set *to return to these shores* next year, after being reincarnated on the other side of the world.

Vincent motorcycles, which built some of the world's first superbikes, went bust more than 40 years ago, *the victim* of a cash-flow crisis. Yet the *machines,* some capable of more than 120mph, attract high prices from collectors.

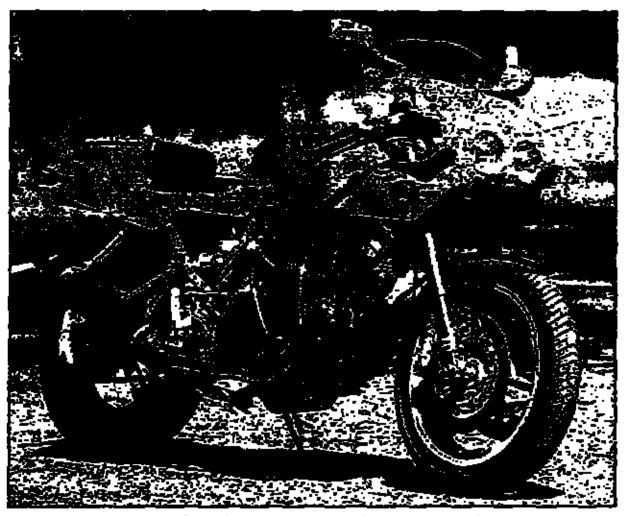
Now the classic Vincent V-twin engine is being updated in Australia as the heart of a new handbuilt machine. A *team of experts long* associated with the Vincent marque plan to import the new RTV superbike to Britain early next year. It is based *on the* legendary Vincent Black *Shadow,* which *was* the world's fastest production bike when launched in 1948. Surviving examples now fetch more than £10,000.

Ron Kemp, who runs a Vincent spares business in mid Wales, *is handling* the European end of the operation, *and says:* "The Vincent-style cylinder heads have improved combustion chambers, and the cycle parts are a pick of the world's best."

Kemp says the machine will be offered with 1,000cc or 1,200cc engines, producing up to 95bhp, and top speed will be *around 140mph.* All this classic performance will come at a price, though — around £20,000 when the first examples arrive here in the New Year.

One of the main inspirations behind the project is Terry Prince, an Englishman who built racing frames around Vincent engines in the 1960s. He then emigrated to Australia, where he evolved his own monoshock frame, which will be the basis for the new RTV bike.

The machine revives the Antipodean link that lay behind the classic postwar Vincents: Phil Irving, a brilliant Australian engineer, was *the* man who created the original powerplants that made bikes like the Rapide, Black Lightning, Black Prince and Black Shadow legendary for their power and speed.



RTV marries classic engine with state-of-the-art parts

WHAT'S NEW?

CYCLE parking and showers for riders are catching on among big companies, according to a survey of 54 companies, carried out by the Environmental Transport Association.

The greenest firms included Unilever, British Airways and Legal and General. BA even offers employees a mileage rate for using a bike on company business.

ALTHOUGH flying is the safest form of travel, ten light aircraft accidents have been caused in the past year due *to "fuel mismanagement"* which can mean running out of fuel or letting one tank run dry. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association is offering a video on the subject, which normally sells for £14.95, to new members. Tel 0171 834 5631 for details.

THE MAKERS of Skystreme claim their new product is the world's first radar-reflective "personal location marker" for those who travel in remote areas.

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Skystreme is a kite and a splint

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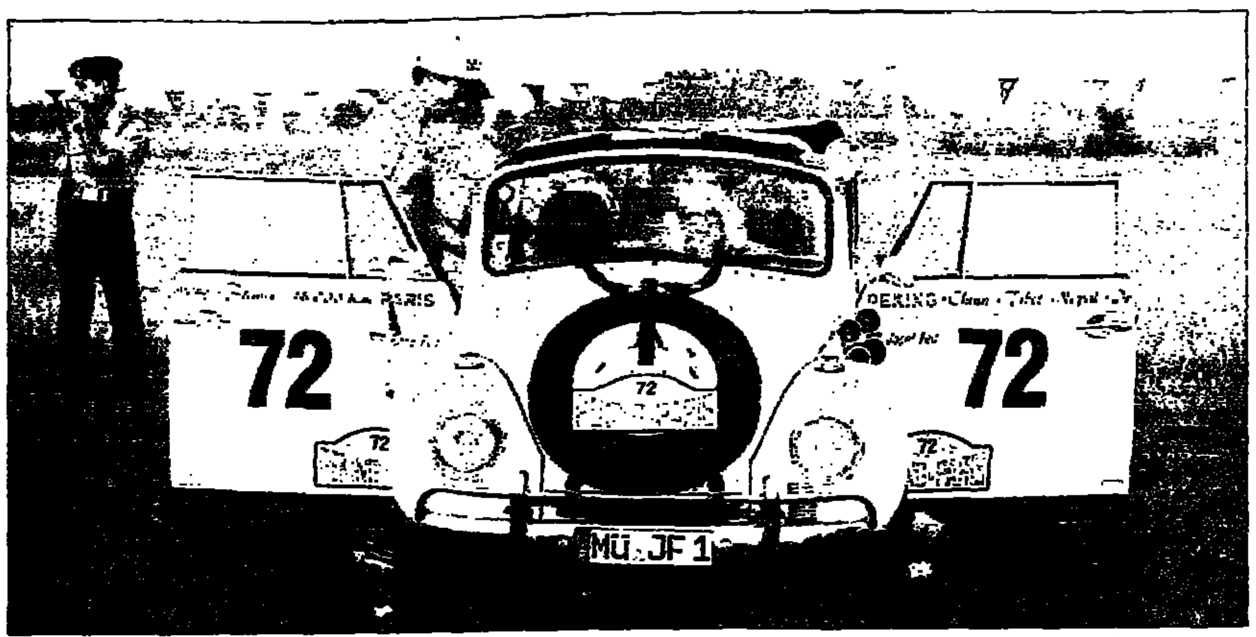


Josef Feit and his son René were killed when their 1967 VW Cabriolet collided with a stationary bus in Quetta

What the organisers and competitors feared most was that one of our number would be involved in a serious accident. I am sad to report a major tragedy last Monday evening, when Josef Feit, driver of a 1967 VW Cabriolet, and his son René, 17, *our youngest competitor*, were killed when they collided with a stationary bus on entering Quetta in the dark.

A terrible gloom has settled upon us, and the organisers cancelled all competitive driving until last Thursday when the rally restarted in Iran. The Feit family was informed by fellow German competitors.

Only a few days before, drivers left Kathmandu in *high spirits after two days of* having themselves and their cars succoured. No one could speak highly enough of the Nepalese mechanics who made a new spring for the Rolls Phantom V and revived many other tired cars.

We set out on a welcome Tarmac road through the lush scenery and tiger parks of Nepal's East-West Highway, where monkeys and parrots abounded. Thousands of people lined each side of the road to greet us; ceremonial costume dancers, drums, music, elephants, and the greatest display of neatly dressed schoolchildren you should ever wish to see. All this followed the lead given by the King and Government in welcoming us, prior to their "Visit Nepal Year 98".

At the last rather rough and very *hot overnight camping* site, there was a certain tension in anticipation of the *drive through 22 rivers where* there are no bridges. We'd been warned there might be tidal waves capable of sweeping a Morgan or 2CV down to the Ganges. As it happened, it proved to be easy and, after the first few rivers, we all became Safari experts.

The Nepalese road authorities had marked the route through rivers with long poles and painted stones on river banks with white blobs to guide us up muddy stretches. With high hopes, we arrived at the Nepalese border and were all whisked through the formalities to the Indian border.

So begins a farce. Going by car in and out of India is a major, expensive and frustrating exercise. Having duly warned the authorities many months ago, sent them paperwork in advance, made personal visits to High Commission and Delhi officials, including a minister of sport, there were only a few officers on duty, with one book to fill in, and 90 cars sitting in the sun outside a straw hut.

So the convoy took up to six hours to clear. All this in spite of the organisers having paid £16,000 to provide extra men and facilities which, in the event and despite promises from the Federation of Indian Motor Clubs, proved to be *non-existent on the day*.

The first rest halt in India was at the mountain hill station of Naini Tal, at the foot of the Himalayas, rather like Lake Windermere, and the stunning climb up and down again the following morning, was in darkness, thanks to the silly border delays.

Nigel Challis and Anthony Jefferies in their Series One Land Rover misjudged a hairpin, ran over the edge and fell into a ditch, which could have been avoided had they been in *daylight. This was the end of* the old Land Rover, and the two men needed first-aid treatment. Luckier were the Brodericks, who perched the front of their little Ford Anglia Estate over the end of a mountain road, and lost five minutes in recovering.

Bureaucracy was almost as bad getting out of India: we had to leave Delhi before dawn. Drivers were awakened at 3am after being warned that if they arrived at the border post any later than 3.30pm the gates would be shut. Peter Noble in his Bentley took a novel route through the mountains from Naini Tal to Missoorie and had a beautiful run on his own.

How very different was our welcome into Pakistan. Much-appreciated assistance, cold drinks, quick and efficient frontier staff who could not do enough to help. This is the first time Pakistan has ever experienced any form of international motor sport, and the Pakistan Motor Club certainly knows how to make the most of its opportunities.

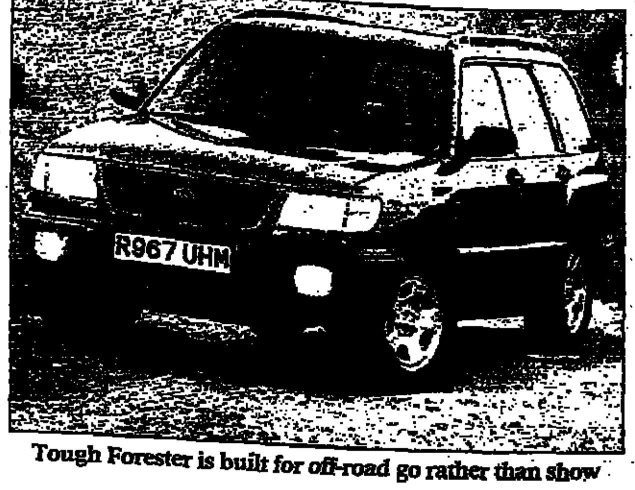
Pakistan and Baluchistan offer long dusty deserts across amazing landscape, twisting mountain passes topped with an old mud fort and a single railway line — all unchanged from the days of the North West *Frontier. This excellent* motoring rally territory, backed up by the help of the Pakistan Motor Club, was a highlight of the event for drivers, although we could have done without stone-throwing children. Crossing the border into Iran could not have been smoother.

Leader of the rally down to Pakistan was the flying Jeep of Phil Surtees, five minutes up on the American team in their 1950 Ford Coupe. Third was John Catt's Ford Cortina, with one of the Iranian Hunters fourth, and the Citroën ID21 of Anton de Stegge fifth.

Three hot and very varied days followed, into the North West Frontier district; some of the best roads yet — just the stuff to excite drivers on the world's longest rally.

I think I can take the prize for the number of different rides hitched on the rally. The count stands at eight, and due to the misfortune of David Drew, who was flown back to London for medical reasons, I am now the official navigator *for Jonathan Lux in a* 1972 Rover PS with a hot V8 motor.

I hope this is my last hitch-hiking car, and we hope to ride together into Paris. At least I am back in a British classic. Next stage involves seven days crossing Iran via the Great Salt Desert. This makes us the first rally to try this since the 1977 London to Sydney. Wherever we go, we enter new record books.



Tough Forester is built for off-road go rather than show

A long, thin locker for your French bread or fishing rod, and a washing up bowl for rinsing off your muddy wellies are standard kit in a car ideal for picnics on muddy river banks, *writes Vaughan Freeman*.

The Subaru Forester features no fewer than 20 such ingenious cubby holes, with the bowl tucked *inside the* spare wheel, making it a dream for any automotive boy scout wanting to squirrel things away before some vaguely tough off-roading.

The packaging gimmicks are matched to a model built around Subaru's world-beating Impreza rally car. While so *many purported four-wheel-*drive cars are nothing more than big toys with over-sized tyres, the Forester *really can* go off road.

While it is an estate car, it also has permanent four-wheel drive. This makes it a rare proposition that bridges two motoring sectors: the family hold-all estate and the tough, go-anywhere 4x4.

To cope with off-road bumps and humps the car sits higher than a regular estate, with ground clearance of almost 8in, yet its roof is much lower than an out-and-out 4x4.

The car's ungainly looks are *matched by a disconcerting* seating position which is higher than a normal car but lower than a Land Rover or Mitsubishi Shogun. The advantage is an interior with aircraft hangar proportions with headroom for two 6ft5in front-seat passengers. Load space is also cavernous as the rear seats fold down to create 54cu ft of load space.

Permanent all-wheel drive gives the Forester excellent grip, especially on the road in wet or icy conditions. The *engine at idle is nigh impossible to hear*, the power steering is incredibly light, and the interior is bland.

One turn of a dashboard button is all that is required to switch the transmission to low-range all-wheel drive when the time comes to head for the fields. The Forester will never ford deep rivers or climb the Himalayas, but it clears terrain ordinary estates would not dream of attempting. It will *probably be at its best with a* tow bar on the back, hauling a horse box.

This is not a car for people who wear waxed jackets and wellingtons to impress urban neighbours in the supermarket. This is a car for those who wear waxed jackets and wellies because they are going out in the rain and the mud, and because such garments work best.

ROAD TEST

SUBARU FORESTER

Engine: Two-litre, four-cylinder, 16-valve, 122bhp. Permanent four-wheel drive.

Performance: Top speed, 110mph; 0-60mph in 10.3 seconds.

Economy: 24.1mpg in town, 36.7mpg motorway, 30.7mpg combined.

Price: £16,400.

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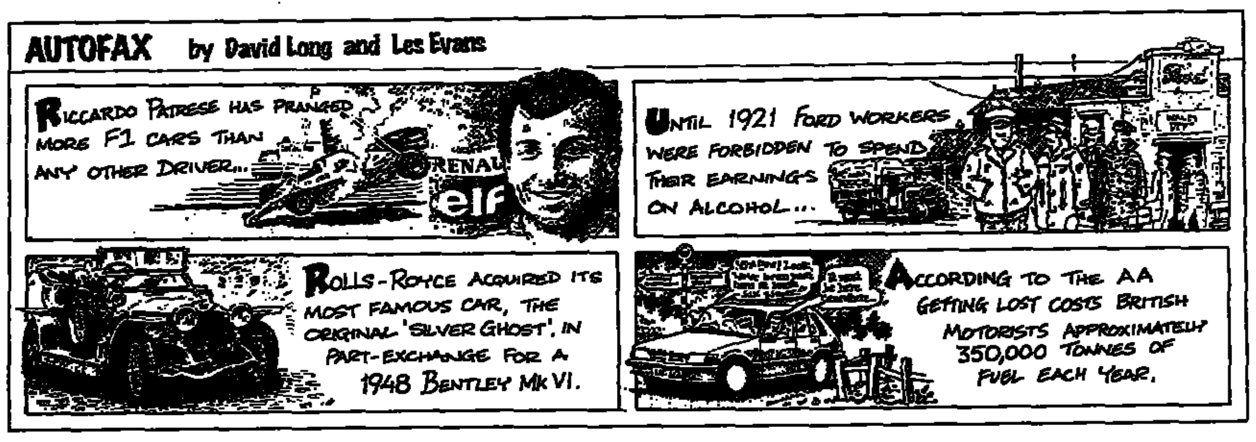

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Geared UK Index	2421.18	2555.96†	+90.00	5.25
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UK Equity Inc #	117.84	126.02†	+ 4.49	4.24
Corp Bd	81.17	83.86	+ 1.29	
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European Strat	151.85	182.40	+ 3.82	.
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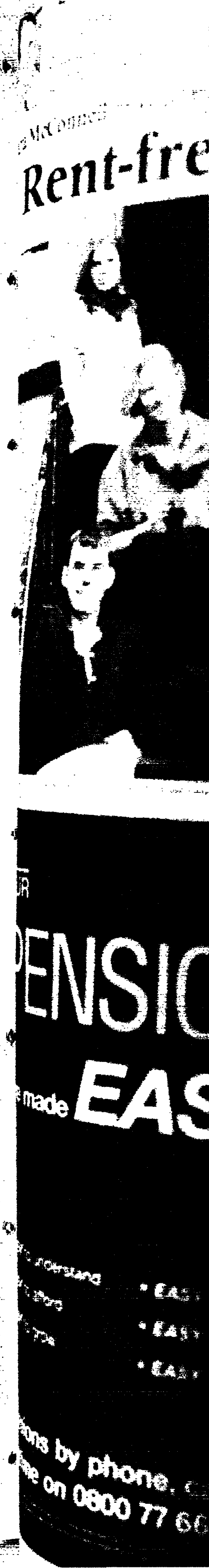
Pacific Growth @	115.70	115.70†	- 0.40	0.35
Pacific Index @	44.50	44.50†	- 0.07	2.22
UK Index @	99.24	99.24	+ 1.89	2.47
UK Recovery @	139.30	139.30	+ 2.40	1.43
UK Smaller Cos @	177.60	177.60†	+ 3.30	1.09
US Index @	115.40	115.40	+ 2.90	0.74
European Index @	128.40	130.40†	+ 2.40	1.00
Japan Index @	31.96	31.96	- 0.50	
Worldwide @	117.50	117.50	+ 1.90	0.94
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	71.78	76.76	+ 1.61	1.98
Income	83.72	89.54	+ 1.71	3.36
European Growth	429.50	454.70	+ 9.90	0.12
-do- Accum	468.80	495.80	+10.70	0.12
European Income	105.20	112.40	+ 2.00	3.60
-do- Accum	158.90	169.30	+ 2.90	3.60
General	736.00	782.40†	+19.00	2.08
-do- Accum	1535.00	1632.00†	+40.00	2.06
Global Bond	129.40	136.00†	- 0.50	4.21
-do- Accum	180.60	189.20†	+ 0.70	4.21
Gold & General	167.20	178.80	+12.30	0.41
-do- Accum	173.10	185.00	+12.80	0.41
Govt Securities	101.30	104.40	+ 0.80	5.44
-do- Accum	222.90	229.70	+ 1.80	5.44
High Yield Bd	108.60	112.30†	+ 1.60	6.69
-do- Accum	122.90	125.90†	+ 1.80	6.69
Income	242.90	258.00	+ 8.80	3.49
-do- Accum	417.10	443.30	+11.50	3.49
Inc Portfolio #	131.20	138.00†	+ 1.60	4.69
-do- Accum #	149.50	158.30†	+ 3.20	4.69
Intl Opps	693.60	728.40	+16.80	0.60
-do- Accum	939.80	989.70	+22.80	0.60
Japan	168.10	179.20	+ 1.80	
-do- Accum	172.50	183.90	+ 1.80	.
New Europe	298.50	318.80	+ 8.60	0.88



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TEAM EFFORT 62

Investment clubs are learning fast

WEEKEND MONEY

GILT TRIP 54

Government stock has powered ahead

Sara McConnell reports on a trend among parents of buying a home for their children's college years

Rent-free terms of endearment

STEVE FORREST

Steps to success: Emily Gibson, centre, has her friends for tenants and will not have to search for a new place to live each autumn

Falling student grants and rising property prices are persuading growing numbers of parents with student children to buy a house for them to live in during their course rather than leaving them to the mercy of the college accommodation office.

As students return to start the new academic year this week, parents who have spent the summer househunting will be congratulating themselves that their offspring will not be forced into the sleaziest rented rooms in town but have somewhere safe and inexpensive to live.

Rent ate up a massive 63 per cent of student income in the 1996-97 academic year, according to the National Union of Students. Universities are building more halls of residence and pushing them as a selling point to attract students but many second and third years have to fend for themselves on low incomes. The NUS said: "In many cities they are forced to live in poor areas, prone to crime, with bad landlords."

A rental property in a popular student town or city could also prove to be a good investment. According to Nationwide Building Society, prices in London have risen 22.4 per cent over the past five years. In outer areas of the South East, which includes Oxford and Reading, prices have risen 17.6 per cent. In East Anglia, which includes Cambridge and Norwich, the rise has been 7.5 per cent.

Simon Fisher, of Simon Fisher Estate Agents in Oxford, said: "The advantage to parents is that their son or daughter will be living in a reasonable area and they won't be spending £5,000 to £6,000 a year in rent. And even if they buy it for £90,000 and sell it for the same three years later, they will have effectively had three years' free living."

Last year Mr Fisher sold a three-bedroom Victorian house in the up-and-coming suburb of Grandpont for £90,000 to the parents of a student at Oxford Brookes University, who planned to live there and rent the other rooms out. The house was previously let to three nurses paying £675 a month rent.

In London where high rents and rising prices make buying particularly tempting, Claire & Co, the South London agent, has just sold a three-bedroom ex-council maisonette in Surrey Quays to the father of a London University student for £58,000. He will rent it out for the first year while in halls, which could bring in £700 a month, then move in in his second year.

In Buckingham, where the private university attracts large numbers of overseas students, Bob Jones, of Woolwich Property Services, has just sold a £50,000 three-bedroom house to the father of a second-year student. Her father paid cash. "She decided rent was dead money. With property prices rising it was an investment and she had peace of mind."

Before you buy, consider who will legally own the property. There are two options.

■ You buy the property and put it into your son or daughter's name. The student pays the mortgage if there is one, with income generated from renting out the other rooms to fellow students. This way there should be no capital gains tax bill if the property is sold at a profit because it will be the student's main residence. (Letting off sections of a property as self-contained flats rather than rooms would, however, attract CGT on the portion of property let.) Students will also be able to claim tax relief on mortgage interest, even if they are not taxpayers.

But John Whiting, partner at Price Waterhouse, argues this could be risky. "As a minor practical issue, do you really want to give them a £100,000 house? They could sell the house and go and live in a squat. Just because you put a large lump sum into an asset, it doesn't guarantee the children will do what you want."

You could also find yourself digging into your pocket for monthly mortgage repayments if the student does not pay. The Halifax,

Continued on page 52

Degree in home economics

The prospect of a second year in halls at Leeds University held little appeal for medical student Emily Gibson. A trip with a student friend in London to help her to find a flat was equally depressing. "They were all dark basements."

Much more appealing was the prospect of her own house in Leeds, ten minutes away from the university. The Victorian terraced house, bought for her for £60,000 by her father, has six bedrooms, five of which she is renting out to friends.

The six have spent the summer and the first weeks of their second year painting the house from top to bottom, obliterating the last signs of previous student occupation. Emily says: "It was a real mess. It looked like the people before had never used the hoover. And they had painted a north facing basement dark grey."

The revamped house will have bright gleaming walls, a new waterproof bathroom floor and a new replastered kitchen ceiling. Emily is in this for the long term. "I'm going to be here for a long time because my course is five years, possibly seven if I do an internship. I think this will be much better than halls. I've always got somewhere to go and I can do what I want."

The house is in Emily's name and she collects the rent. But all rent will be paid by direct debit and money for bills will be collected by another friend. If people do not pay up, she says, "I'll have to start to say, this is your landlady not your friend speaking."

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Rent-free terms of endearment

Continued from page 51

the largest lender, says that the most common arrangement is for the property to be signed over to the student, but with the parent acting as the guarantor for the loan.

Parents are then, however, responsible if the child defaults. The bank said: "In the worst-case scenario, we could repossess the student's house and turn to the guarantor for the shortfall."

Students who own property and rent out rooms are legally landlords, says the Small Landlords Association. This means they are responsible for insurance, repairs, carrying out annual gas safety checks and making sure furniture and fittings conform to regulations.

■ You buy the property and keep it in your name. You will have to pay CGT if you sell at a profit because it will not be your main residence, although each individual has a capital gains tax exemption, currently £6,500. You will be taxed on your rental income but you can set mortgage payments against rental income.

You will be the landlord and should draw up a formal tenancy agreement with each tenant — including your child — said Gareth Hardwick, of the Small Landlords Association. He said: "We hear every month of tenancy agreements entered into between relatives which have gone sour. Kids can fall out with their parents."

A renewable assured shorthold tenancy with a minimum fixed term of one year will give students security for at least an academic year, but will also allow you to repossess the property if things go seriously wrong.

Before they start, students should sort out:

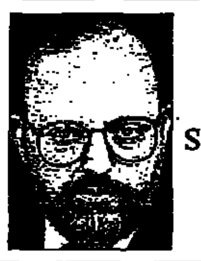
■ Who will collect the rent? Student landlords will have to collect rent, particularly if they have a mortgage. But they should ask each tenant to set up a standing order (termly, monthly or weekly) so that they do not have to demand rent directly.

■ Who will pay bills? Rents can be set exclusive or inclusive of heating, lighting and phone. But people are more likely to be careless of saving on heat and light if the cost is included.

If bills come on top of rent, they can be divided equally or paid by one person with others paying back their share. One possibility is to get a third party to collect money to avoid confrontation. Students are exempt from council tax but only if everyone is a student.

City pays for ignoring us

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

For once, private investors can afford a smile of revenge. Many a portfolio was built up from new issues, long before the Tory Government latched on and gave us BT, British Gas and the rest. Those who played such a crucial role in the mass privatisations were also the backbone of the market for humbler flotations.

Small investors liked new issues because they could buy off the prospectus page without having to pay commission or stamp duty. They had a sporting chance of getting in on the ground floor of a long-term winner such as Tesco. Promoters also aimed to price shares to leave buyers a small instant gain.

In a harder-nosed atmosphere, company owners were rightly told that this was expensive. Costs could be cut by forgetting small investors and targeting bulk sales to institutions. The Stock Exchange obligingly adapted the rules. To many modern floaters, small investors were only useful at the top end, to bulk up the cash, and at the bottom, to get the Alternative Investment Market going when big investors were sniffy.

Sadly, institutions have lost interest. The stock market party has been a jet-set affair for blue chips. Smaller shares have lagged and some companies spewed into the market by the buyout machine have been poor. Promoters can no longer depend on the more discriminating instincts of private investors, so the new issues market has dried up.

Investment trust company promoters learnt the hard way the perils of failing to cater for small investors in the 1970s and early 1980s. They lived in a closed City world. With some worthy exceptions, they made little effort to distinguish trusts, their managers or missions to any but professional insiders.

Few small investors bought shares in closed funds, except when times were good and promoters seized their chance to launch new trusts at the top of the market, as in 1972. Open-ended unit trusts, which can market their wares continuously, drove the pioneers of collective investment into obscurity.

The second-hand market was left to institutions. It became a commodity arbitrage market and in dull markets, the last thing they wanted was other people's portfolios. With the exception of trusts roaming new investment frontiers, which both hark back to the past and point to the future, shares in these closed trusts came to sell at a discount of 25-40 per cent to the net asset value of their portfolios. Even so, it caused a stir 20 years ago when I pointed out the absurdity of £100 invested by the country's top experts being valued at perhaps £70.

Put Not Your Trust In Money, a readable history written by John Newlands for the Association of Investment Trust Companies, shows that things have changed for the better. Takeovers on the cheap took out some big general trusts. Boards realised that good investment was no use if gains were lost to shareholders in discounts.

Many funds were revamped with names that meant something, or changed to invest in specialist markets. Others were split to tailor their capital to different investors' needs. Reinvestment schemes and low-cost save and purchase schemes are now the norm.

Come 1994, discounts were down to 5 per cent but promoters went back to their bad old ways and raised billions in unwieldly new trusts such as the notorious Kepit, which was to exploit a continental privatisation bonanza that failed to happen.

Today average discounts are back to 13 per cent. It would make little sense to launch a simple, non-specialist, low-geared growth trust against the marketing advantages of open-ended funds. 3i, the UK's premier investment in small companies, is an attractive special case. But well-established trusts look much better value than units for which you might have to pay a 5 per cent premium.

If there were a big market setback, as a second big house now predicts, trust shares would probably fall faster, temporarily increasing the discount. As the growth of vulture funds implies, however, today's discounts may well prove near the top of the current cycle. Trust managers need to make sure of that by remembering morning, noon and night that private investors are again their best customers. If well-treated, they will remain so.

Advice from Inland Revenue's Hector goes unheeded

Time running out for 1.5m without forms

An estimated 1.5 million people face fines by the Inland Revenue because they need to fill in a form under the new tax self-assessment rules but have failed to request one.

Although eight million forms have already been sent out, a further 1.5 million people who did not receive a form may need to declare income from property or investments. Alternatively, they may be self-employed and have forgotten to register with their local tax office.

The Inland Revenue has given warning that they should request a form by October 5, or face fines and penalties for unpaid tax from January 31 next year.

Although they have two months to return their form if they want the Revenue to calculate tax, and three months if they are prepared to do it themselves, they will still be fined if they miss the January deadline.

Meanwhile, half of all taxpayers affected by the new self-assessment regime have not yet returned the forms and face having to work out their tax liability themselves. Taxpayers have been rushing to send back their forms on time, and 300,000 arrived at tax offices around the country on Tuesday. Another 100,000 are returned daily.

Accountancy firms report a huge increase in demand for tax calculation services as the first deadline expired.

Officially, the Revenue says it can no longer guarantee to have processed the forms by the second deadline of January 31. After this second date, it may charge people interest on unpaid tax and may impose a penalty of £100. So far, a total of 4.4 million forms have been completed out of a total eight million originally issued.

Michael Kaye, a partner with Tax etc, the accountant, said he expected the Revenue to show "a degree of leniency" for forms returned late.

Unofficially, the Revenue is saying that it may be able to work out tax on forms sent up until the beginning of November. However, there is no guarantee that it will be able to clear the backlog by January 31, which means that people may pay fines or interest on unpaid tax.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "People should not use that as an excuse to procrastinate."

Problems with the forms for the 1996-97 tax year have already come to light, including confusion over salary figures and business expenses.

People who intend to calculate their own tax have until January 31 to return their forms, plus a cheque for what they think they owe in tax. Anyone who has not completed their form by that date will pay a £100 fine and interest on unpaid tax. If you have still not filed a return by the end of July 1998, you will pay another £100 penalty.

At the Revenue's discretion you could also face daily penalties of up to £60. On top of these you will pay interest on unpaid tax at the official rate of 8.5 per cent. After February 28 you will be billed for a surcharge of 5 per cent of the outstanding tax on top of interest and penalties.

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MARIANNE CURPHEY

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Time to see sense over annuities

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Devotees of Jane Austen will know that annuities are a "very serious business". The matter is discussed at some length in *Sense and Sensibility*. However, there is little appreciation of the importance of annuities at the Treasury, or so this week's events suggest. Those retiring this week with small pensions will be the victims of this ignorance.

An alleged leak from the Treasury about a more favourable stance towards the single currency caused gilt prices to rise and gilt yields to fall (see pages 54-55). As gilt yields determine the rates on pension annuities (through some time-honoured practice) these also tumbled.

Those in the Treasury who are unfamiliar with pension rules may be interested to learn that hundreds of thousands of people a year have to buy an annuity when they retire. This investment pays their pension.

The consequence for those ending their working lives this week is a retirement income as much as 5 per cent lower than they would have had a month ago. Most will have no idea that they can postpone purchasing their annuity in the hope of a better deal, and few of those who are aware of this concession will be able to afford to use it. Anyone with a fund of less than £100,000 (rather more than average) has little room for manoeuvre.

Government thinking is now turning towards making pension contributions compulsory. However, plans for reform must be based on a better knowledge of the system than currently appears evident in Whitehall. People must be told that the choice of an annuity is as much of a lottery as the choice of a pension.

Ministers must also be frank about how much you need to accumulate, compulsorily or otherwise, to have an adequate pension. To match the maximum a pensioner can receive in state benefits, you need a pension fund of £30,000. To have a pension of £30,000 a year would currently require an annuity costing £350,000.

Little sympathy

BARCLAYCARD is said to have been stung by criticism of its interest rates. So we will have no jokes about cardholders subsidising the fat salaries at the Barclays investment banking subsidiary BZW. But will these hurt feelings run so deep that the card company cuts its rate? Or will it soon be telling us about a new range of added extras designed to conceal the charges?

LEE BESFORD

Philip and Lynn Sweeney with Erin and Lauren, who both have YoungSaver accounts.

Young savers gain from higher rates

Lizanne Rose on the improvement in returns now being offered to small investors

Rates are improving for young investors, after a period when those with only small amounts to invest have been ignored by banks and building societies.

The Britannia, now the third-largest building society, is paying 7 per cent on balances of as little as £1. Its FirstSaver Account was launched on Monday. This beats the banking divisions of Sainsbury and Tesco who pay 6.5 per cent.

The Britannia's closest competitor is the Coventry Building Society, whose Interest Zone pays 6.75 per cent on £1. Abbey National matches Britannia by paying 7 per cent to young investors, but only on balances of more than £1,000. Birmingham Midshires also pays 7 per cent, but only on a £500 investment. At the Britannia, once a child's savings reach £500, the rate becomes 7.25 per cent, rising to 7.5 per cent for investments of more than £5,000.

Britannia has closed both its existing children's accounts, Brighter Savers and 11:17, and replaced them with the single new account, FirstSaver.

Children who had savings in either of the old accounts will benefit from the increased rates — up between 2.5 and 3 per cent from 4.50 per cent. On top of the interest paid annually, FirstSaver account holders are also eligible for the members loyalty bonus scheme, whereby savers can earn bonus points that are converted into cash at the end of each year. Savers should apply when they open their account and will qualify for bonus points at the end of their first year. The average bonus paid out in 1996 was £35.

Britannia's youngest investor is Erin Sweeney, who is a week old, and had an account opened by her father, Philip, on launch day. Mr Sweeney already has a mortgage and savings account with Britannia. "I felt it would be easiest to put the family's investments under one roof. We intend to build up Erin's account over the years as pocket money and birthday money is added," he said.

An alternative for long-term saving is National Savings children's bonds, which offer a guaranteed fixed rate of 6.75 per cent for five years.

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OVER 50?

The wrong choice at the wrong time could reduce your retirement income by up to one third.

FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance
27 - 28 January 1995

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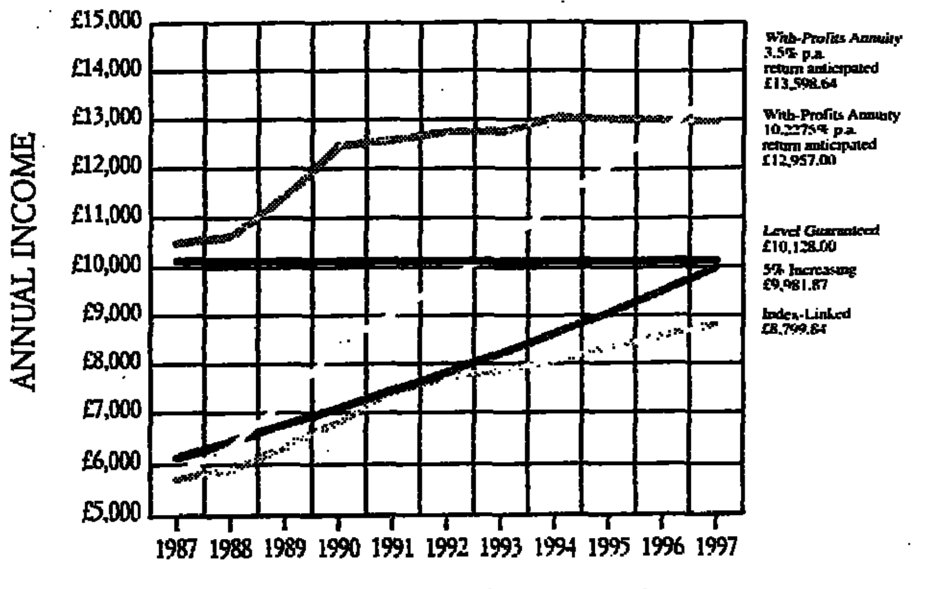

The figures in the above graph are based on a purchase price of £100,000 on 1 April 1987.
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The above graph is designed to show what happened to five identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most appropriate route. Furthermore, you should appreciate that the initial levels of annuities and their relative positions would vary depending on the date of purchase.

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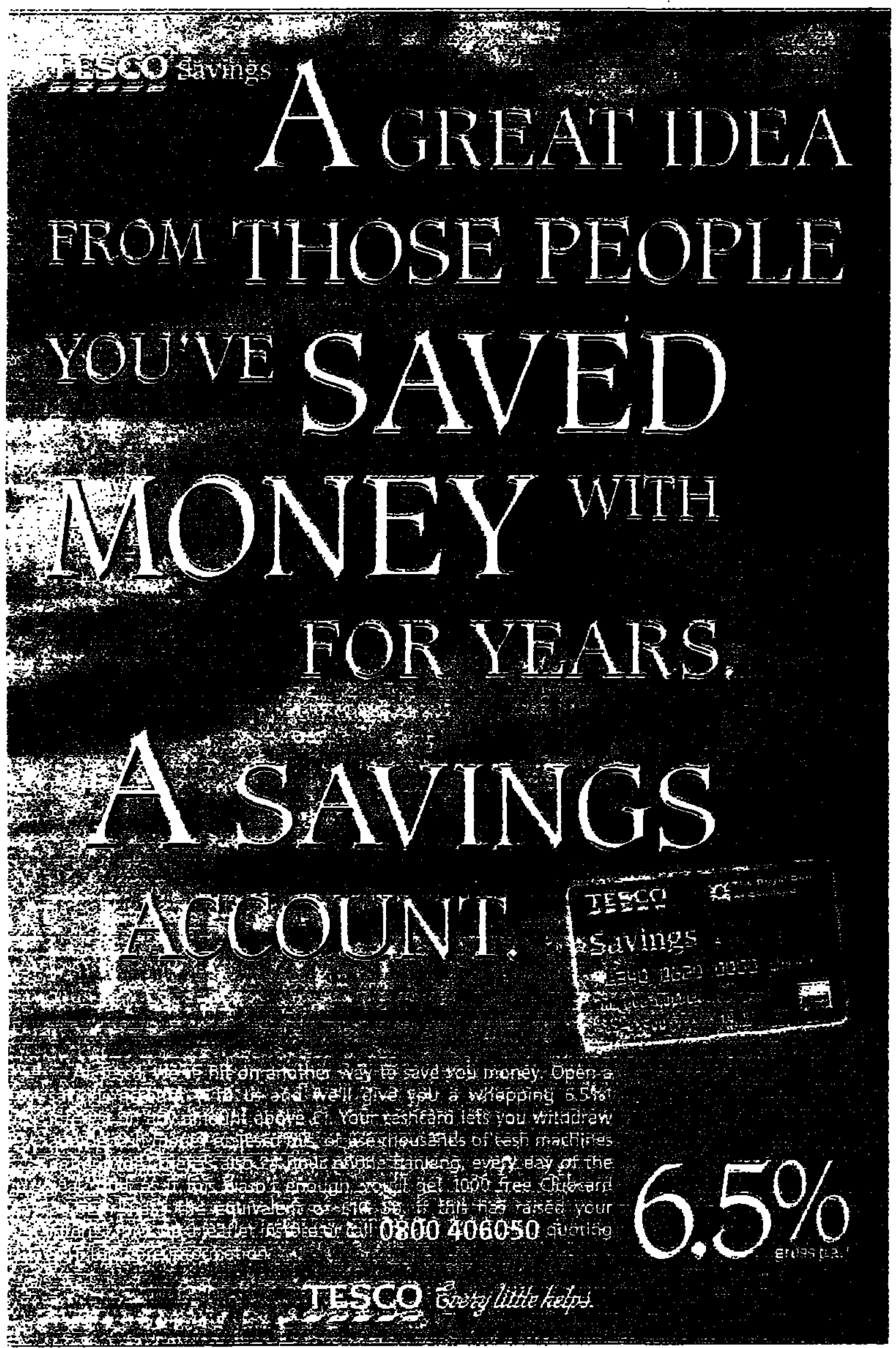
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Thrills and spills as

Old hat: in the past, gilts brokers could rely on safe, steady, some might say dull, returns

Drama and excitement are not the reasons why most investors buy gilts. What one expects is safe and steady, albeit dull returns. Yet in the last six months the gilt market has rocketed ahead, culminating in a dramatic surge at the end of last week.

City investment banks are reported to have made millions of pounds in profits in gilt futures trading on Friday last week, with Goldman Sachs rumoured to have made up to £11 million as the market was swept up with speculation about EMU entry.

"The world of gilts has been turned upside down in the last six months," said Theodora Zemek, M&G's director of global fixed income, who manages £2 billion in gilts.

Three events have transformed the gilt market: the election of the Labour Government, the granting of independence to the Bank of England and the surge in expectations about an early entry of sterling into a single European currency. After each event, the gilt market leapt.

If the Government does announce an early entry into EMU, then gilts are almost certain to enjoy breathtaking gains. One City investment manager predicts that an entry announcement would see gilts leap by up to 25 per cent in a matter of weeks, or even days. "The sky's the limit if we go in," said one analyst.

But it is not just big City traders who are making huge profits from the gilts market rally. A small investor who bought a 25-year gilt last March is sitting on a total gain of 18.25 per cent today. While everybody has been focusing on the stock market's record-breaking run, the remarkable gilt market rally has gone almost unnoticed.

Gilt yields are the linchpin for a range of financial products, such as fixed-rate mortgages and annuities. Lower gilt yields spell cheaper fixed-rate mortgages; but also lower annuities for pensioners. The price of gilts is also critical in determining the level of the stock market. Lower gilt yields

A QUESTION OF MONEY: GILT-EDGED SECURITIES

Q What are the benefits of gilts?

A Gilt buyers have the certainty of a fixed return (the coupon), paid half-yearly, and the certainty of a fixed value on the redemption date. However, if the gilt is bought at a price above its nominal amount, investors will incur a capital loss if they hold it until redemption.

Q Explain how gilts are priced

A The price quoted is for a nominal amount of £100 pounds worth of stock. If the price is, say, £90, it is below par or at a discount. If the price is £110, the buyer is paying a premium over the nominal amount.

Q What is the rate of interest?

A The interest rate applies to the nominal amount specified in the gilt. For example, if you buy a 10 per cent stock you would get £10 interest a year for each £100 nominal. If you pay more than £100 for £100 nominal of stock. the actual interest rate you receive will be less than the nominal rate quoted. If you pay less than £100, it will be more.

Q Why does the capital value rise and fall?

A If a gilt issued ten years ago offers 10 per cent interest and base rates subsequently drop to 6 per cent investors will be keen to buy the 10 per cent gilt for the extra yield it offers. This demand pushes up its price as rates fall and the owner enjoys a rise in capital value as well as the interest payment. Of course, it can also work in reverse.

Q What is the tax position of gilts?

A Interest on gilts is liable to income tax. Interest on gilts held on the National Savings Stock Register is paid gross but should be declared to the Inland Revenue. Capital gains from the sale or redemption of a gilt are exempt from capital gains tax. No stamp duty is payable on purchases and sales of gilts.

Q Where do I go to buy a gilt?

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drama grips gilts market

Patrick Collinson on the reasons behind the recent transformation of government bonds

underpin rising stock markets, and further falls could see equities reach new highs.

An investor who buys a gilt — UK government stock — is guaranteed a fixed interest rate, paid half-yearly. But the total return can be boosted — and just as easily reduced — as the capital value of the gilt moves up and down to reflect changes in market expectations about the direction of interest rates.

It is these capital movements which have boosted gilt returns in recent months. For example, the 18.25 per cent gain quoted above was made up of 14.25 per cent capital gain, with just 4 per cent of the gain coming from interest payments.

The first positive shock for the gilts market was the election of the Labour Government with a landslide majority. The great fear of gilt investors is that inflation will eat away at returns, and with the market's nerves on edge prior to the election, finding gilts buyers was tough.

But the decisive Labour victory dispelled fears of a minority Government at the mercy of its old left wing and renewed optimism about continued low inflation. Then, only days after the victory, Gordon Brown, the new Chancellor, stunned the gilts market. "In comes the Government and it knocks the market for six by declaring the Bank of England independent," said Ms Zemek. Independence for the Bank was viewed as securing long-term low inflation, and the gilts market jumped for joy.

Market traders measure gilts by the difference between their yield and the yield obtained on German Government bonds.

Peter Raines, Commercial Union's head of global bonds, said: "Before the election, gilts were trading on a wide yield premium of about 1.8 per cent over deutschmark bonds. After the Bank of England announcement, that premium fell sharply to just 1.2 per cent."

A 0.6 per cent fall in yield may sound small, but it can make a big difference to the capital value of a bond.

The strength of economic growth has further spurred the gilts market. Growth has produced unexpectedly high tax returns for the Government. As a result it has not had to go to the gilts market to raise money. With new gilts issuance slowing to just a trickle, the price of existing gilts has been pushed higher.

The increases in base rates by the newly independent Bank of England, far from causing long-term rates to rise in tandem, actually provoked the reverse because the market interpreted the move as signalling a tough new approach to inflation.

Then came the news last week, in a report in the *Financial Times* (denied by the Treasury) that the Government was on the verge of adopting a much more positive approach to EMU. As a single European currency necessarily implies a convergence of German and UK yields, the report sent UK bond yields tumbling and capital values rising.

Colin Harte, who is in charge of Gartmore's £9 billion in bond investments, said: "It was the catalyst for near panic in the gilt market." The yield gap fell to less than 1 per cent, its lowest level for years.

Can the rally continue any longer, or will it now run out of steam? The key will be what happens over the euro. If sterling enters a single European currency then the narrowing of bond yields down to German levels could result in another huge bonanza for gilts investors.

City analysts say that the convergence and elimination of the 1 per cent yield gap will produce a 20 per cent to 25 per cent capital gain for long-dated (25-year) gilts. Shorter-dated gilts will enjoy smaller, though still substantial, gains.

What do the experts say about the likelihoold of a further "convergence play"?

■ The Bears

Gartmore's Mr Harte said: "*Early entry into EMU will be a policy error equally as bad as last time round when sterling went into ERM. I suspect Gordon Brown is not going to rush to join, and the last thing the UK needs right now is for short-term rates to fall to European levels. Ultimately it could lead to a sharp rise in inflation and gilts would be slaughtered.*"

Mr Harte said there are alarming parallels in the gilt market between now and the end of 1993, when a wave of euphoria about permanently low inflation subsided and the bull market went into reverse. He said: "There is a hell of a lot of good news in the price already. What if there is an inflationary shock? There is possibly a nasty accident waiting to happen." His strategy is to buy short-duration gilts, hedged into marks to gain as sterling weakens.

■ The Bulls

Brian Luck, of Edinburgh Fund Managers, said: "We believe there has been a structural downturn in inflation, probably returning to the situation common in the 1950s. We've always believed the euro will go ahead, and I expect sterling to enter, though not in the first wave.

"The UK has been sceptical about the euro project for a long time, but there has been a lot of effort put into making EMU work. The newspaper report last week has simply brought home the changes that have already taken place."

■ The Cautious

M&G's Theodora Zemek said: "Much of the run so far has been common sense catching up. At current levels gilts are still reasonable value. There is no reason why gilts should yield more than Italian Government bonds, yet they are trading at 0.5 per cent less than gilts. On the other hand it's hard to argue that the UK should yield less than the US, where ten-year Treasuries are on a yield of 6.11 per cent."

Mr Raines added: "The convergence gains from EMU entry could be modest. European economies are picking up, so interest rates there are likely to rise, so the gap could narrow without gilt yields falling substantially."

Yields hit pensioners

Thousands of those retiring this month will dismayed by the rise in gilt prices that followed newspaper reports of a ministerial change of heart towards European economic and monetary union (EMU). They will receive pensions as much as 5 per cent lower as a result of the close link between yields on gilt-edged stocks and the rates on pension annuities.

There is now speculation that gilt yields have further to fall, which would result in still lower annuity rates.

Under the complex rules that govern pensions, those who have personal pensions, or are members of money-purchase type company pension schemes, are obliged to use at least 75 per cent of their pension lump sum to buy an annuity. Their income in retirement will be paid from this investment.

The insurance companies that sell annuities use the yields on gilts as their yardstick when setting annuity rates. Rising gilt prices cause gilt yields to fall and annuity rates follow. Annuity rates are now at an all-time low.

Gilt yields began to fall in the wake of the Government's decision in May to grant independence to the Bank of England. The markets believed that an independent bank would control inflation more effectively than the Government. The decline in yields accelerated in September. On September 1, the 15-year gilt yield was 7.10 per cent. It is now 6.47 per cent.

Peter Quinton of The Annuity Bureau, the independent financial advisers specialising in the annuity market, said that annuity rates were the lowest he had known.

A month ago, a 60-year-old man with a £100,000 fund would have received an annuity income of £9,093.48 a year. This has now dropped to £8,693 after five successive annuity rate cuts at the Prudential.

Other major providers, such as Norwich Union, Sun Life, Standard Life and Stalwart, have also dropped their rates. However, earlier this week, Standard Life was still offering an income of £9,044 for a £100,000 annuity.

Mr Quinton suspects that rates may drift further as gilt yields move closer to yields on European fixed-interest stocks and bonds, in anticipation of Britain joining the single European currency. "Convergence trading" is now the name of the game in the European bond markets.

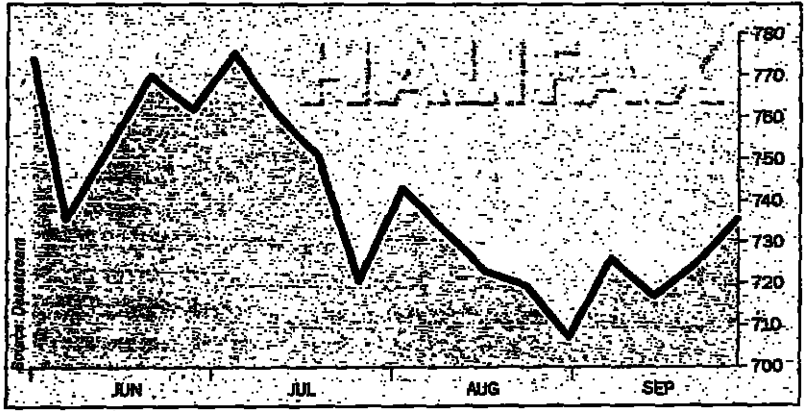
He suggested that anyone who had received a firm quote on a higher annuity rate before the EMU report should accept the offer. Those with funds in excess of £100,000 could explore the various options that allow the purchase of an annuity to be delayed.

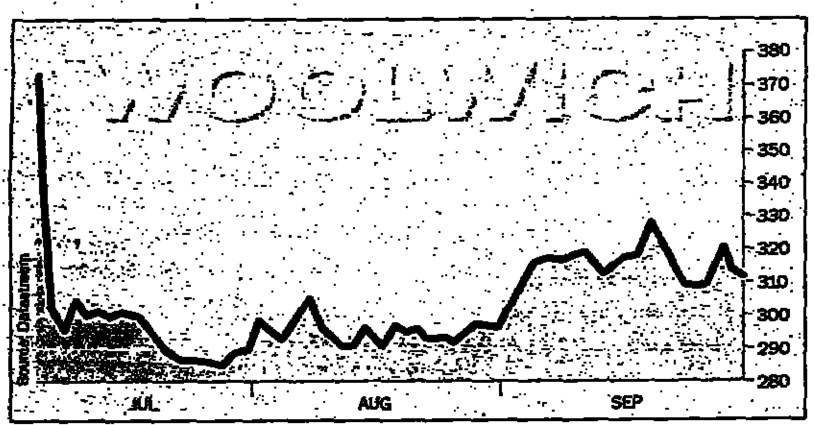
Mr Quinton added that other forces were also combining to drive annuity rates lower, including the increased longevity of the population. Insurance companies are paying less because customers are living longer.

ANNE ASHWORTH

The floating of the Rock

Caroline Merrell looks at the record windfall payments that greeted members of Northern Rock earlier this week





The flotation of the Northern Rock Building Society this week brings an end to the wave of conversions that kicked off with the announcement of the proposed merger with the Halifax at the end of 1994.

Shares in Northern Rock, the smallest of the building societies to float, initially raced to 470p. The price was far in excess of the 295p predicted in the offer document mailed to society's 800,000 members at the end of February. The rise in value of Northern Rock has been helped by the soaring heights of the UK stock market — record levels were again set this week. In particular, shares in the banking sector have rocketed, pushed up by the surge in prices of gilts on the back of speculation about the UK's entry to the single currency.

An unusually high proportion of Northern Rock members opted to sell their shares immediately. Nearly half, 43 per cent, sold them via one auction on the eve of the float. Far fewer people sold their shares in Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich immediately — only around a quarter of the members from each opted for the cash.

Adam Applegarth, executive director, put the high number of people selling shares down to the fact that most of the Northern Rock's members live in the North East. Only a small proportion of people in this region are used to owning shares. "Geordies prefer cash," he said. Those who sold their shares immediately can look forward to a cash windfall of £2,255, which will arrive in their accounts by October 9. The windfall is based on an average price achieved at auction of 452p. Those who sold their shares through this route will be charged a flat-rate dealing charge of £10.

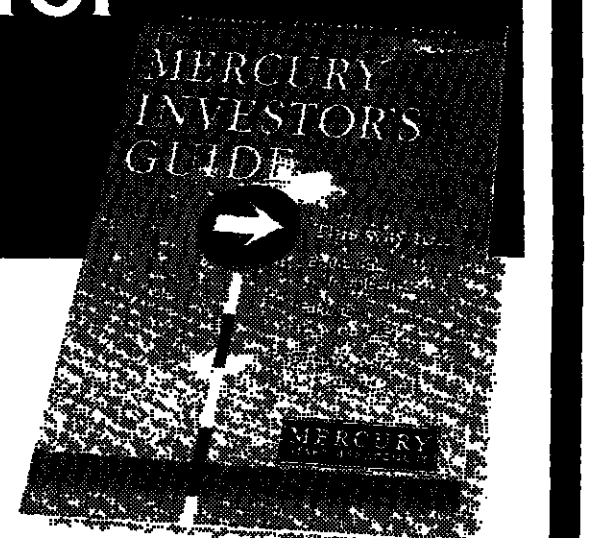
Although this sum, which is the biggest windfall from the converters, may seem like a fortune, analysts believe that the 380,000 members of Northern Rock who opted for the cash rather than the shares may have been a little hasty. With a market capitalisation of £2 billion, Nothern Rock is by far the smallest of the banks and the newly floated building societies. Its comparatively small size and low-cost base means, according to the analysts, that it can grow earnings swiftly to enhance returns to its shareholders.

The society has managed to increase its share of the mortgage market over the past few years. Salomon Brothers, research analyst, pointed out that Northern Rock had also been successful in attracting new business in areas other than the North East. More than half of its new mortgages are now originated in the Midlands and the South East.

Shares in Northern Rock may also be helped by the apparently more positive stance adopted by the UK Government on economic and monetary union. EMU earlier than anticipated means that interest rates could fall, boosting the housing market and mortgage lenders like Northern Rock.

The flotations of Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Norwich Union, Halifax and Northern Rock released around £30 billion in the form of cash and shares into the economy, with average windfalls of around £1,200. The biggest windfalls among the societies was doled out by Halifax, where members made more than £8,000 from cashing their shares in straight away. The share prices of the companies have shown mixed fortunes since their respective flotations, as the graphs show.

All the companies have some unclaimed shares. Halifax has the fewest at 250,000, compared with the Woolwich, which has 75 million unclaimed shares from 121,000 shareholders. Norwich Union has 2.2 million unclaimed shares held on behalf of 210,000 shareholders, while Alliance & Leicester has around 22.5 million.



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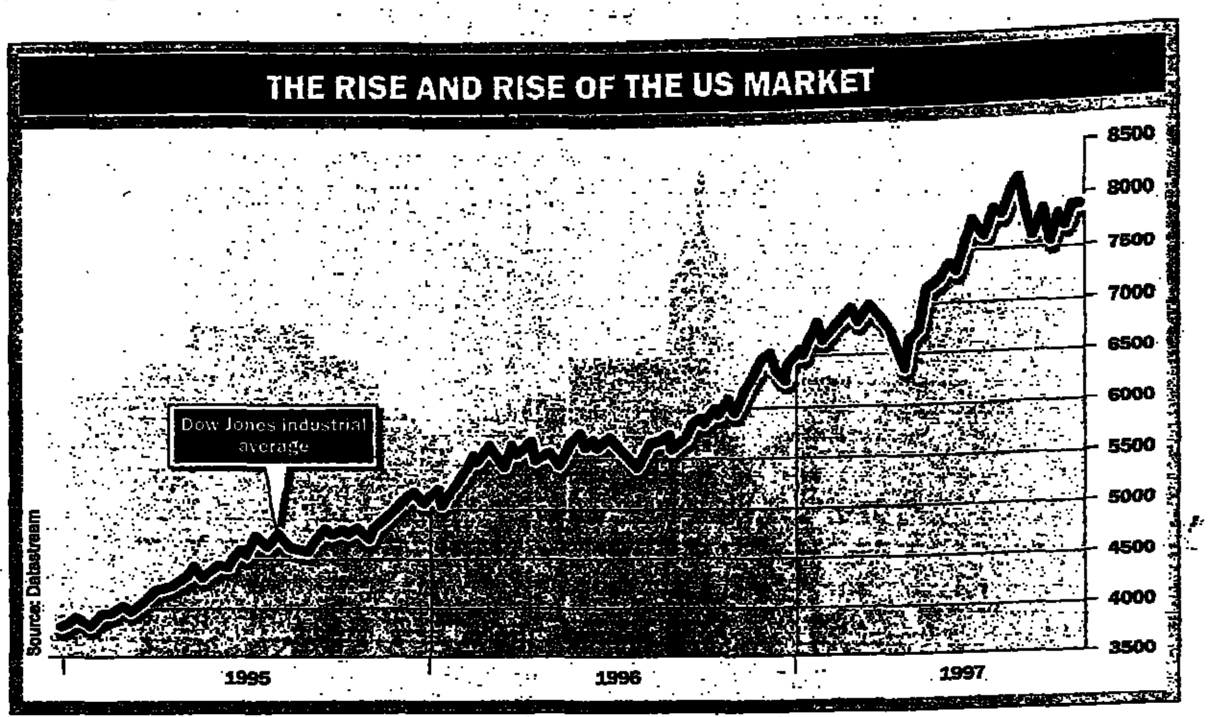
Caroline Merrell explains how UK pension fund managers have missed the boat

Trust the American dream


THE RISE AND RISE OF THE US MARKET

Source: Datastream

The biggest mistake made by the UK pension fund managers over the past two years is to have been out of the US market. According to figures from CAPs, a company that monitors pension fund performance, managers had only 4 per cent of their equity portfolios in the American market, despite the US stock market being among the strongest-performing markets in the world.

Pension fund managers preferred to keep the majority of their money invested in companies that were quoted in the UK or in fixed-interest securities. Many of the pension fund managers would rather put their money into companies quoted in Hong Kong, which is a fraction of the size of the American market. In any case, the performance of many of the companies on the Hong Kong market is directly linked to the performance of the property market.

Last year funds suffered from reducing their exposure in the US to an average 3.9 per cent from 4.3 per cent in 1995. A world index of shares suggests that 53 per cent of non-UK shares should be held in the US.

Private investors with millions of pounds held in unit trusts and investments trust that hold shares in the US have enjoyed some spectacular returns over the past few years. For example, an investment in a Gartmore's American Emerging Growth fund would have risen 380 per cent over the past five years, while an investment in Schroder's US Smaller Companies fund rose 353 per cent over the same period.

When the Dow Jones industrial average reached record highs earlier this week, the US stock market had risen nearly 30 per cent for the year. This record run followed the big gains of 1996, when the supposedly mature economy surged ahead 26 per cent. Even before US equities gathered momentum in 1994, many managers viewed the market as overpriced. Despite this share prices have risen strongly. Further impetus was given to the US stock market last month with the $9 billion bid for Salomon Brothers by Travelers Insurance. Some believe that there will be a spate of takeovers in the financial sector, which will lead to further gains for investors.

TRUST WATCH

However, is this a good moment to invest in the US stock market? Katherine Garrett-Cox, Hill Samuel US equities manager, said: "The US market may be a little bit more volatile in the third quarter of this year. Earnings growth is expected to slow down."

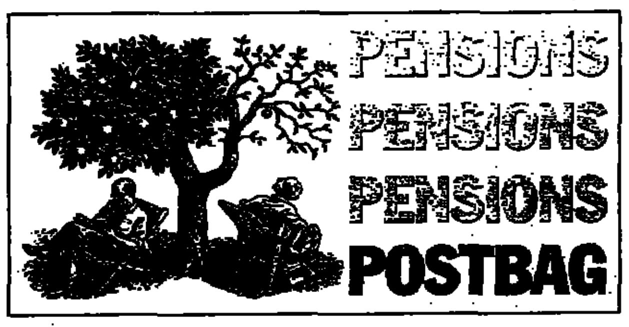
She said that there was further consolidation expected in the financial services sector on the back of the bid for Salomons. However, she and other fund managers expressed the view that the US market would continue to provide good investment opportunities. She said that fears that the Federal Reserve would put up interest rates had begun to recede.

Hilary Speller, Gartmore US fund manager, said: "The overall picture in the United States is positive. We have a positive view on interest rates. However, we do expect some deceleration in profits growth in the third quarter."

Those investing in US funds may also be helped by the recent fall in the value of sterling. A weaker pound will lead to better returns for those investing in the US. As the tenth anniversary of Black Monday looms, this may be enough to persuade even the least sceptical that now is not the time to move into US equities, yet the market has confounded expectations many times. Indeed, some expect a rally towards the end of the year with the focus moving to smaller companies as blue chip shares reach their full values.

Additional research by Rachel Holmes

Make most of employer's generosity



The labour market is becoming increasingly flexible. Employees no longer work for just one employer and most will switch jobs two or three times throughout their working lives. Many will have periods where they are self-employed, or perhaps not employed at all.

However, this new mobile workforce could find that it is short-changed when it comes to pension arrangements. AB, from West London, for instance, explains: "I was employed by two different employers over a period of seven years. One period of employment lasted for about five years, one was for two. I took out a pension with both companies. I was then made redundant and became self-employed for two years.

"My financial adviser advised me to take out a personal pension with Scottish Equitable. It looked like a pretty good plan because it offered loads of flexibility. You could pay a lump sum into it when you wanted and you could vary your contributions.

"After about two-and-half years of self-employment I was offered a job. The job entitles me to join the company pension scheme almost from day one, but this leaves me a problem about my personal pension. If I contribute 4 per cent of my earnings into the scheme, my company will contribute 8 per cent. They will not contribute into a personal pension.

"I am also in the process of transferring from the group personal pension I was in with the company I used to work for. What should I do?"

Pensions postbag replies: About 18 million employees are in occupational schemes. Most companies make contributions on behalf of their employees into the scheme. Private sector employers will pay a percentage of earnings into the company scheme.

The money paid by employers is to reward loyal workers. For example, many firms will not allow their employees to join the scheme for two years. Those that allow employees to join straight away will refund contributions only if the employee leaves the company within two years. The generosity on behalf of employers can easily wrongfoot the seven million who have chosen to take out personal pensions.

Many of these people will move into employment at some point in their lives and be offered the opportunity of joining the company scheme. The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) says that few companies will contribute to personal pensions. The NAPF says: "Eight years after the introduction of personal pensions, employers still retain the view that if the employee does not want to join the company scheme, then no employer contribution should be made."

Financial advisers are unequivocal about what AB should do.

Christine Ross, director of financial planning at Abbey National's financial adviser division, says: "People in this situation should always join the occupational scheme, to get the extra contributions from the employer. A lot of company pensions have extra benefits, such as a disability pension."

She points out that some of the newer personal pensions could be converted into additional voluntary contribution schemes, allowing the employee to contribute to both the company scheme and the AVC scheme.

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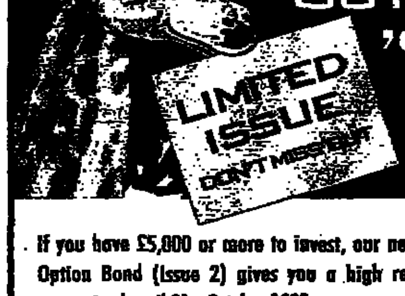

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TIMES 4/10/97

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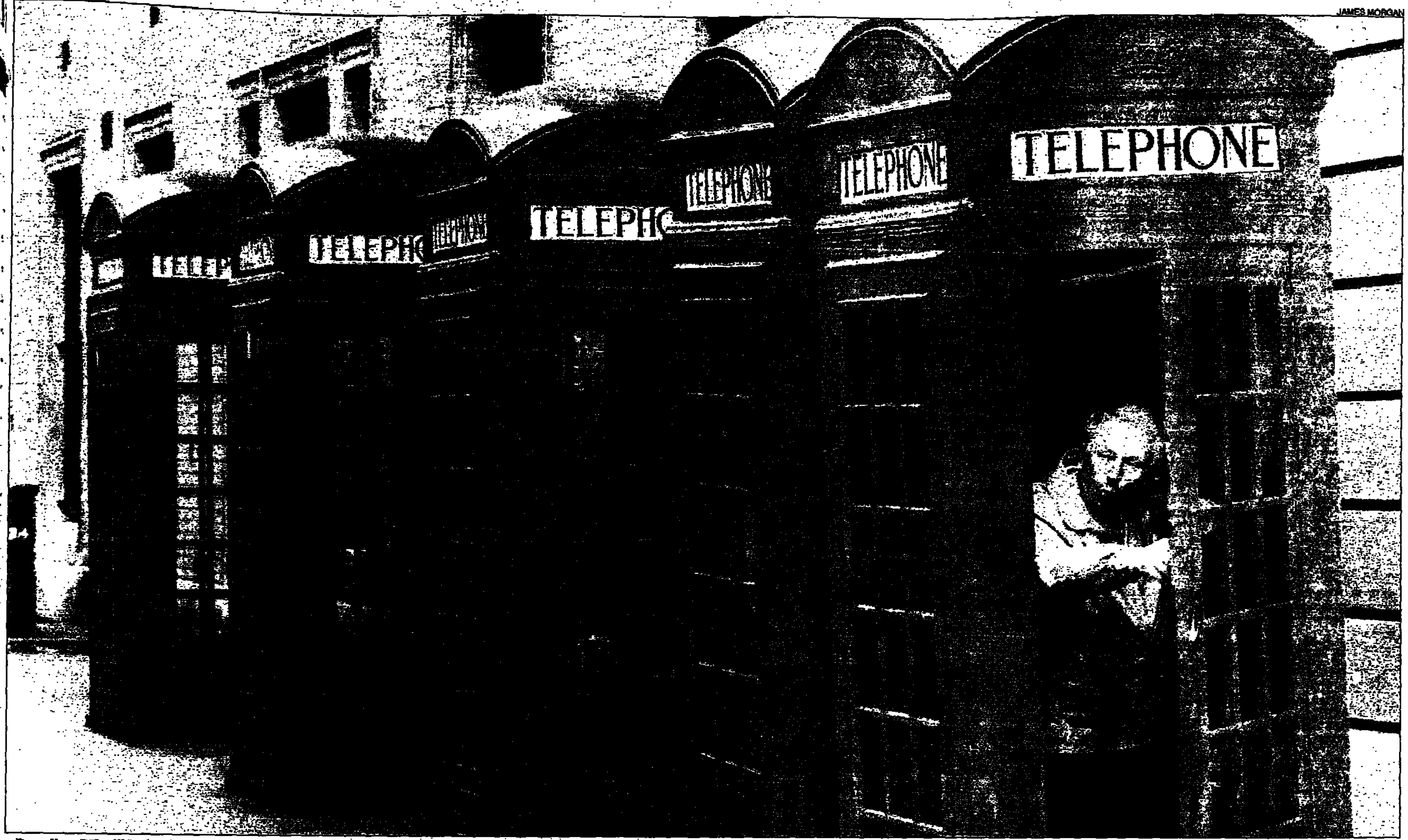

Busy line: BT will be hoping that investors queue up to sell their shares if managers decide to launch a buyback

A triumph of modern financial engineering

Caroline Merrell reports on the utilities that want your shares

The possibility of a share buyback by British Telecom increased this week as WorldCom, a little-known but gigantic telecoms company, counterbid for MCI, the US telecoms giant that BT is attempting to wed. If the WorldCom bid, which ostensibly tops BT's bid by £3 billion, succeeds, BT will be left with a large amount of cash.

It already has a 20 per cent stake in MCI, which under the terms of the WorldCom deal is valued at £3.75 billion. BT's share price soared on the news that it was potentially being ousted from a marriage that has already hit some severe problems relating to £800 million losses at MCI — losses that BT's management seemed unaware of.

However, despite the favourable reaction of the markets, successful extrication from the deal does leave BT with what has been described as a "gaping hole" in its global strategy.

BT would like to spend its money on some form of international expansion, but this is proving to be a tricky proposition. If the BT/MCI merger fails, and no other suitable partner can be found, pressure will grow on BT to go through with a share buyback. This piece of financial engineering could be worth as much as £1 a share for each of BT's 2.3 million shareholders.

Whatever happens, stockbrokers are advising shareholders to hang on to their BT shares. Scott Penrose, of Natwest stockbrokers, said: "Perhaps BT will again consider a merger with Cable & Wireless. Or perhaps they may try a three-way merger with MCI, and WorldCom." Bernard Ebber, the expansionary chief of WorldCom with a line in garish ties, even hinted that he would not be afraid of attempting to take over BT itself.

The 1.37 million shareholders in BG plc, one of the two companies demerged from British Gas earlier this year, were this week sent details of the company's share buyback proposals. However, it is not an excess of cash that is pushing BG into a buyback.

BG and its demerged partner have had a turbulent year in the face of increasing pressure from regulators and from the Government. British Gas lost more than £500 million in 1996, its final year as a single entity. The costs of the demerger pushed the £130 million pre-tax profit into a £571 million loss.

The company wants to stop paying such large dividends to shareholders in the face of a cut in its income stream caused by tougher conditions imposed by its regulator, Ofgas. The buyback will cut the cost of financing the operation, as the cost of the debt to buy the shares back is cheaper than the cost of servicing the equity. The cash handout would have been much larger, but for fears that Ofgas could force extra price cuts on the company, costing £500 million over the next five years.

BG is hoping to return £1.3 billion of cash to its shareholders by issuing "B" shares. Under the terms of the deal, shareholders will receive one B share for each of their ordinary shares. Each of the B shares are worth 30 pence. They can be sold immediately for no charge.

At the same time, 17 of their ordinary shares will be exchanged for 15 new ordinary shares. The B shares will have some value as they will attract a dividend. The first dividend will be paid in November of next year. Brokers say that it will not be worth holding on to the B shares. The market for the shares is likely to be very illiquid — demand for the shares will not be high.

Holding on to the shares will hamper the company's cost-cutting exercise and prevent it from making progress.

Simon Flowers, of Natwest Securities, said: "The share buyback will make the company more financially efficient." Those who want to take advantage of BG's offer to sell the B shares for free should return the forms by the end of October. The financial engineering is subject to approval by shareholders at an EGM on October 27.

Revolution in the marketplace

In a fortnight the London Stock Exchange will introduce an electronic dealing system that will transform the way shares are bought and sold. Called the order book, it will sweep away the system operated by middlemen known as market-makers.

Until now, market-makers have bought shares from investors wishing to offload their stock and sold them to other investors wanting to buy. They have made their money from the "spread", or difference, they set between the two prices.

From October 20 investors wishing to trade in blue chip stocks in the FTSE 100 will no longer have to go through these middlemen. The buy and sell prices for all these stocks will be constantly updated on an electronic screen and investors wishing to deal will simply place their order and wait for it to be picked up.

With market-makers out of the picture both buyers and sellers should get better prices. However, it is not clear how far this will benefit private investors, as many of their deals are under £4,000 and are too small to go through the order book. Private client stockbrokers with this size of order will still go to the market-makers. Although the market-makers are obliged to offer the same prices as the order book, they will be able to charge a fee for buying shares for investors who cannot settle within five days. For a booklet on the new system contact the Stock Exchange on 0171 797 1372.

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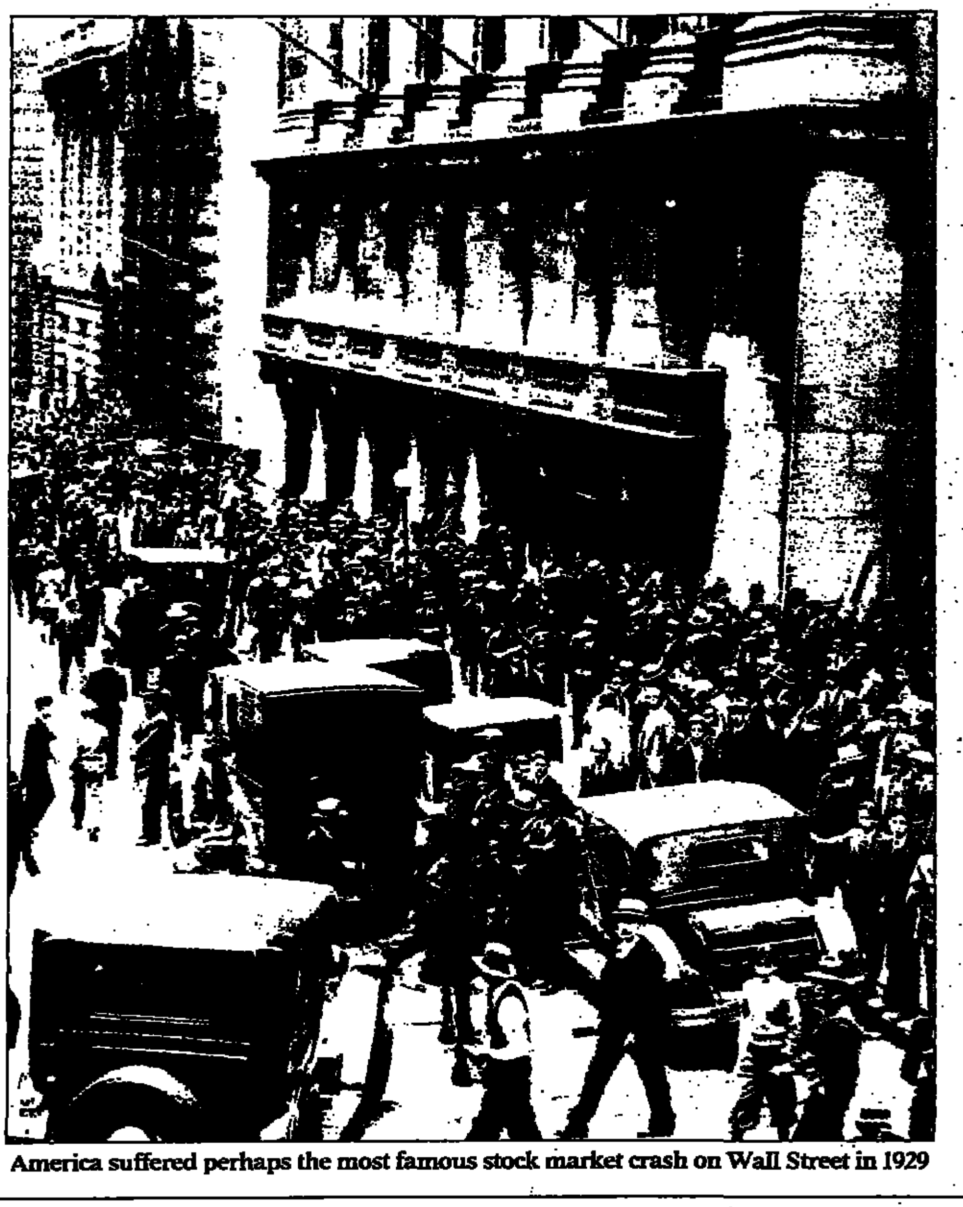

America suffered perhaps the most famous stock market crash on Wall Street in 1929

Does what goes up have to come down?

Clare Stewart offers a crash course on stock market cycles

The anniversary of Black Monday is looming (October 19) and the gloom mongers have been hard at work prompting fears of a rerun of October 1987's stock market plunge. Ten years on, fears of an imminent upset are not based purely on superstition but on the lessons of the past, that things tend not to go on getting better.

Share prices in the UK have been climbing higher for 40 months. Backed up by data on previous stock market cycles, there have been plenty of pundits saying that a correction is due, if not overdue.

Stock market followers such as David Schwartz, author of the *Stock Market Handbook*, point to a number of patterns in market cycles. "One important indicator is that the stock market has a correction of at least 15 per cent every *24* months. It is not a precise rule but does happen with consistency," says Mr Schwartz.

Here, Weekend Money answers some of your questions on stock market crashes.

INVESTMENT
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Q What exactly is a stock market crash?

A *The word "crash" is frequently used to describe* an unusually large fall in share prices, though there are varying definitions of how big a fall qualifies as a crash. Generally analysts take the view that a fall of 50 per cent in share prices over a given period qualfies as a serious crash, while lesser declines are better desribed as mini-crashes, market corrections or just bear markets.

Q What happened in the 1987 crash?

A Sticking to the 50 per cent rule, the stock market move in 1987 was not a crash, however dramatic the fall and its impact on investor confidence. On October 19, Black Monday, shares fell 10 per cent, with a similar fall the next day, wiping billions of pounds off share prices.

Overall, the decline over four months left prices around 36 per cent lower. But it was the speed of the fall — and its arrival against a background of relative economic stability — that shocked investors, many of whom had not experienced a market downturn.

Q How have shares moved since then?

A Despite the severity of the fall in those four months, share prices recovered relatively swiftly and have made strong progress subsequently. In 1987, during the week of Black Monday, the FTSE 100 index hit a low of 1,795.20 points, a drop of 257 points on the week. Ten years on the FTSE 100 has again breached the 5,000 level, having hit a high this week when it touched 5,269.2.

Q Was 1987 the worst crash there has been?

A In the 1970s stock markets were battered rather harder than in 1987, and over a longer period. This, says David Schwartz, was "the grandaddy of bear markets", lasting from May 1972 to November 1974, during which time prices dropped by a staggering 73 per cent.

A catalogue of factors has been cited as responsible, including worldwide recession, inflation, oil price increases as Opec flexed its muscles and in the UK the reaction to the election of a Labour Government in 1974.

Q What about the crash of 1929?

A The best-known crash this century is certainly that of 1929, when the boom in world markets came to a dramatic end. The first signs of falling prices were seen in 1928 in the UK, though it was not until the following year that Wall Street felt the effects.

The rise in British interest rates is cited as a key factor, prompted by the flood of British money into the booming US economy. The weakening of the British economy and the subsequent shock decision that took Britain off the Gold Standard combined to knock prices 60 per cent lower during the 1928-32 period.

Q Any other crashes to add?

A Wars have a habit of upsetting economic cycles and stock markets. After the turmoil of the First World War, a period of economic and social unrest was characterised by recession, unemployment and inflation. The stock market fell by more than 50 per cent in a year.

In the late 1930s, a minor economic downturn was worsened initially by the threat of war and concerns over rising taxes. By mid-1940, when the progress of the war looked particularly bleak, prices hit further lows. Over the period 1937-40 prices dropped by 60 per cent.

Q What might trigger a 1990s crash or correction?

A There are a number of factors that might prompt a marked reverse in share prices, not least the belief held by some that share prices, particularly in the US, are overvalued and that a correction is therefore inevitable.

One key trigger would be a rise of US interest rates, as a means of containing levels of economic growth. Not all stock market watchers, however, subscribe to the view that this would prompt a dramatic reaction on Wall Street.

David McBain, equity strategist at NatWest Markets, says: "In the near term there are risks of a correction in the US and the likelihood that other markets would be caught up."

But he says to talk of a crash is to overstate the case. In addition, he says that London is a less vulnerable market than others where valuations have soared. Also, looking at key indicators such as dividend yields, he says the market looked more stretched in 1987 than at present.

"On a 12-month outlook we retain a positive view," says Mr McBain. But inevitably, as October 19 approaches, he says: "Investors will look back and there will be a sense of caution."

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Baxter: prefers personal touch

Actress calls curtain on computers

Sarah Baxter, an actress, suffers from a complaint common among Britain's 3.5 million self-employed: she wants a personal business relationship with her bank but finds that the all-powerful computer continually gets in the way.

The 25-year-old graduate opened her account with Barclays Bank three years ago after leaving Leeds University, where she graduated in drama. In spite of her efforts to explain that the life of a young actress is an unpredictable and unrewarding one, she still has to convince her bank that unplugging the IBM and listening to what she has to say would be more productive.

Sarah, of Crouch End, North London, says: "I have nothing against my bank: in fact I have very little contact with them. But when I do, I find that every decision is made by a computer rather than a member of staff. If I ever ask for a temporary overdraft to help me manage between shows, they always ask for details of my regular income, which isn't something you are used to as an actress."

Sarah takes part-time jobs outside the theatre to pay the bills when she is not acting; therefore she finds that part of her income is taxed at source and the rest paid gross. So this year she has decided to call in an accountant to help with her tax return.

She earned around £9,000 last year, but a recent 11-month tour of Europe, where she was part of a five-strong female cast performing William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, means she expects to earn considerably more in the 1997-98 tax year.

Her punishing daily work commitments mean that she has no time to visit a bank during normal opening hours, so she is considering moving to one of the growing number of telephone banks, such as First Direct, which allow her to do all her banking by phone.

JOHN GIVENS

John Givens on banking for the self-employed

Give fine account of your business

Being self-employed and running a successful business will depend on you maintaining a number of good relationships, not least with your bank manager. Unless your business can be totally financed from your own funds and never runs into overdraft or requires another form of lending, having the backing of the bank could be vital to your future as one of the growing number of self-employed people in the UK.

The first stage of your business relationship with a bank is to open an account. This may seem obvious, but there is more to it than meets the eye. If you are self-employed and trading under your normal name, your personal bank account will be sufficient, although you will have to keep bank statements to prove to the taxman what your income and outgoings have been. However, if you give your company a name you will have to open a business account because payments made to you by cheque will be in the business name.

■ **THE CHOICE:** You may decide to open a business account with the same bank that holds your personal account. Some people, however, would advocate going elsewhere to make sure private and business banking are kept separate.

According to the Federation of Small Businesses, NatWest is the market leader when it comes to the small business account sector, claiming 27.4 per cent of the market last year. Barclays is next with 23.4 per cent, followed by Lloyds with 15.6 per cent and Midland with 13.6 per cent.

■ **COSTS:** Although most personal accounts are operated free of charge, this is not the case with business accounts. However, all the main high street banks will run new business accounts for at least 12 months without levying costs, after which the normal range of fees applies.

■ **OPENING UP:** Opening your account involves more than just filling in a few forms. Almost all business bankers will want to see you before agreeing to offer banking facilities. Not everybody who asks to open an account gets the go-ahead, usually because the self-employed person has a record of financial problems or because the bank thinks there are fundamental shortcomings in the business idea or how it is being set up and funded.

Any of the big UK banks will need convincing that your business idea has been well thought out and that you have at least the basic skills and expertise needed to operate in your chosen market.

■ **INTERVIEW:** It is important to prepare properly. All the big four banks — Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and NatWest — offer guidance to customers setting up in business, both in person and through a series of guides and booklets. NatWest, for example, offers a set of guides free of charge, covering everything from setting up as a self-employed worker to putting together a business plan.

During the interview the bank manager will discuss your plans and voice any concerns he has. This is not meant to be a criticism of your plans but more the chance to highlight any problems which might be prevented if they are spotted early.

■ **BUSINESS PLAN:** Consider putting together a business plan before you go to see your bank for the first time. A business plan should include everything about the business which is relevant to its performance, including what market it is operating in, who the key people are, a description of your products or services, the size and potential of the market, a list of competitors and where the business will be run from.

An in-depth business plan should also include as much financial information about you and your self-employment as you can give. This will include details of any assets you have such as cash, investments or property, what you expect your turnover to be in the first year of trading, what your products or services will cost, what the profit margins will be, any funding you might want from the bank and a cashflow forecast for the first 12 months. If you are not sure how to prepare a business plan you could pay for an accountant to help, or you might find that your local chamber of commerce can help. Ideally your plan should be sent to the bank a few days before you visit.

■ **BORROWING:** The last part of your visit to the bank will probably consist of a review of your borrowing requirements. Banks like to lend money because it is a major source of revenue, but they will need to be satisfied that your self-employment is likely to be a success and that you can afford to repay the money loaned to you. Many bank managers will ask for security to back loans.

Within a week of your visit to the bank your account should be open and chequebooks, paying-in books and account cards sent to you. All you need to do now is keep your bank happy. The golden rule is always to be honest and to keep the bank manager up-to-date with what is happening, even if it is sometimes bad news.

As long as you explain to the bank what the situation is, you should find it will be patient and help as much as it can. However, lose your bank's trust and you will probably find it becomes an adversary rather than a friend.

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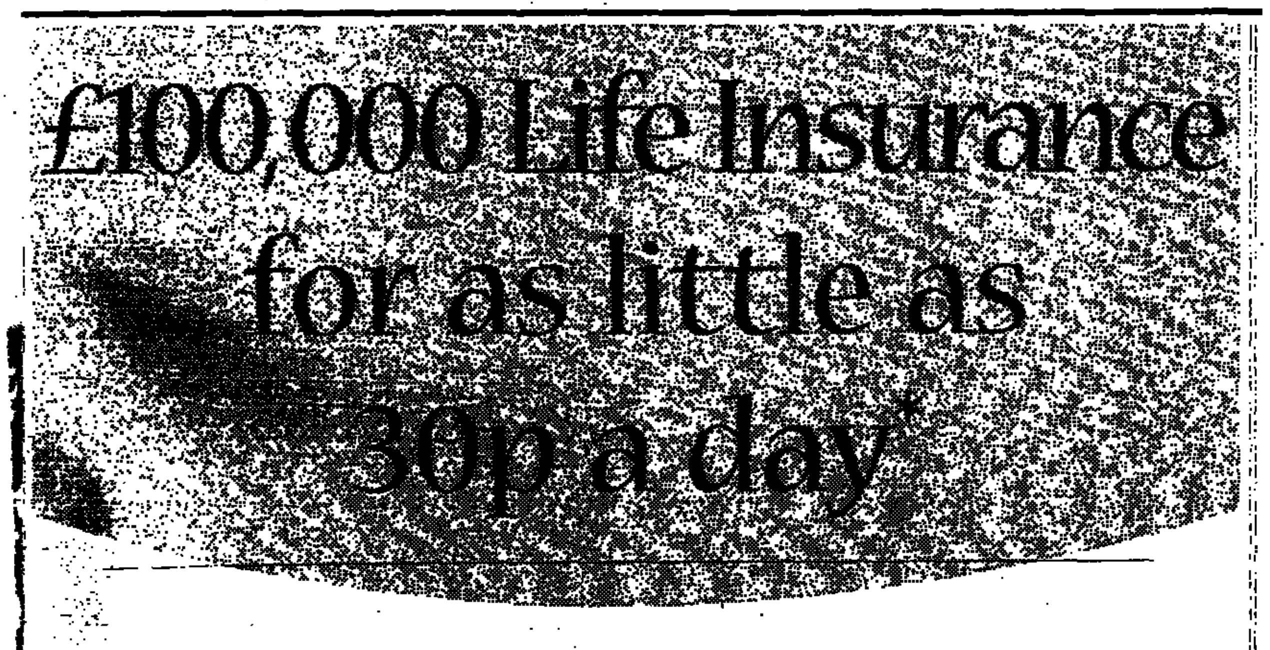
*1% DISCOUNT APPLIES TO UNIT TRUST LUMP SUM INVESTMENTS OF £500 OR MORE FROM 11.00AM ON 8.9.97 TO 11AM ON 24.10.97. †SOURCE: HINDSIGHT FROM HSW INTERNATIONAL GROWTH SECTOR, OFFER TO BID WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED TO 1.9.97. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. THE VALUE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND YOU MAY NOT GET BACK THE FULL AMOUNT ORIGINALLY INVESTED. EXCHANGE RATES MAY CAUSE THE VALUE OF UNDERLYING OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS TO GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. THE CHANCELLOR HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ISA) WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM APRIL 1999. UNTIL THIS DATE, PEPS WILL [illegible] THEIR TAX-FREE STATUS, ALTHOUGH AFTER THIS DATE IT MAY NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE YOUR INVESTMENT IN PEP. FULL DETAILS OF THE ISA, INCLUDING THE PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFERRING TO ISAS, HAVE YET TO BE CLARIFIED. ISSUED BY PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED. REGULATED BY IMRO AND THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND A MEMBER OF AUTIF



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†*Source: Micropal. Based on £100 per month from 14.2.86 to 1.7.97. Offer to Bid prices. With gross income re-invested. Over the 5 years to 1.7.97 the same* investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 19.5%. The figures shown illustrate what the return would have been if the Trust had been eligible for inclusion in a PEP at its launch in February 1986. The value of stockmarket investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Exchange rate change may cause the value of any overseas investments to go up or down. Where applicable we will recover any overseas taxes wherever possible and practical. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. The value to an investor of any tax advantages depends on personal circumstances. *For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

RBS abolishes overdraft fees

Overdraft fees are being abolished by the Royal Bank of Scotland in a bid to simplify its current accounts. From December 1. an agreed overdraft of £500 over 12 months with the Royal Bank's interest paying current account will cost £20.71. This compares with £142 with Bank of Scotland. £80 with Barclays and £37 with First Direct. The bank will no longer charge for arranging or renewing an overdraft, or impose a service charge on an agreed overdraft — only the *interest on the amount* borrowed must be paid. Customers who exceed their overdraft limit will be charged interest at 2.45 per cent per month plus a service charge of £15 per month (increased from £10). Call 0800 121 121.

☐ Only a quarter of women are saving for a pension. according to research by TSB. In response to this statistic. TSB has produced a free booklet, *Women & Pensions.* which offers guidance on what women can do to build *up their own pension.* taking into account possible career breaks. It also explains how marriage. divorce and widowhood may affect them. Call 0645 758700 for a copy.

☐ After the launch in September of the Share Centre's investment advice service for private investors wishing to buy and sell shares, a daily market update is now avail*able at no extra charge.* The market report. which can be accessed via the Internet, includes the Share Centre's buy/sell/hold recommendations and reviews immediate share prospects. The Investment Advice Service costs £15 plus VAT per quarter.
Visit their Website at www.share.co.uk, or call 0800 800 008 for more information.

☐ More than 60,000 people retire in the UK each month. While this is good news for those who have planned prop*erly for retirement. for many it* will mean a personal financial disaster. If you want to learn how to increase your retirement income by 60 per cent. how to protect your estate for your heirs. and how to avoid losing your house should you have to go into long-term care. *How to Finance Your Retirement.* written by Tony Granger. is for you. Available in bookshops from October 23. priced £7.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.50	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	7.05	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	Direct Access	PostalB	£5,000	7.45	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Albion 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.15	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 40	40 day p	£5,000	7.30	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£5,000	7.35	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	£10,000	7.60	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Principality BS 01222 344188		*5 year*	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811		5 year	£500	7.60	Yly
Loughborough BS 01509 610707		5 year	£2,500	7.60	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.60	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	*Advantage Visa*	*0.64%NC*	*7.90%N*	*Nil*
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829400	Base Rt Lnkd M/V	1.00%C	12.70%	Nil

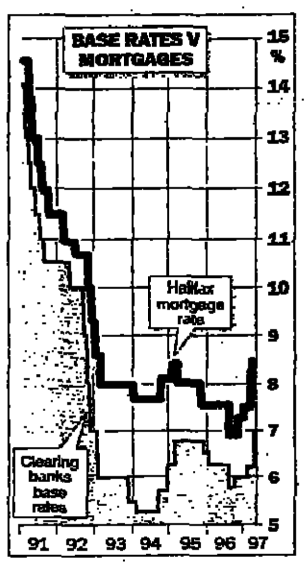
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

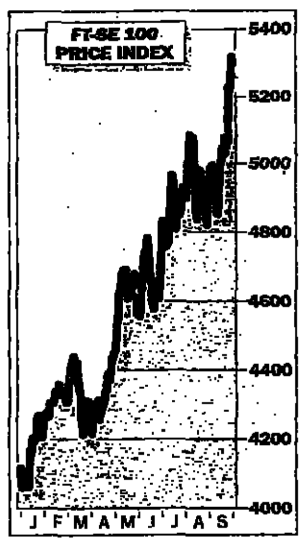
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.65
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = no interest free period. N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*₆	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**⁷	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*₆	6.50	5.20	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond₄	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†₂ ₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond₂ ₆	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†₃	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3₆	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000₆	60day	0645 645000

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. inst accs for up to £100 ² Unlimited additional nvsts for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Canada Life..........Level	£ 9,177	£10,270	£11,757
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,135	£10,257	£11,772
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 9,137	£10,195	£11,635
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,044	£10,136	£11,156

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,496	£ 9,313	£10,509
Canada Life ....Level	£8,470	£ 9,293	£10,491
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,595	£ 9,291	£10,260
Generali ....Level	£8,335	£ 9,264	£10,541
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,382	£ 9,141	£10,248

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547
Canada Life ....Level	£8,033	£8,667	£ 9,559
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£7,992	£8,586	£ 9,423
Sun Life ....Level	£7,918	£8,557	£ 9,452
Prudential ....Level	£8,012	£8,554	£ 9,385

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at October 2, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5,000	AIG Life	6.27
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.55
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.35

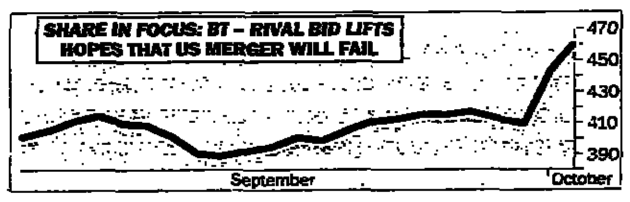
Source: Chamberlain de Broé 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	126.12	7.391	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	152.86	7.605	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	171.43	7.583	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	171.65	7.574	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	160.82	7.470	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	152.62	7.699	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	177.04	7.555	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	140.98	7.575	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	*12.625%*	*166.50*	*7.583*	*100.45*	*1,000*
Northern Rock	12.625%	165.64	7.622	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	170.45	7.553	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	120.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.98359%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Rate fixed to 1.8.99
Nationwide 0800 302010	5.75	to £300k	90	2.35% discount for 2 years
Yorkshire 0800 378836	4.95	£25-150k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths 3% disc-6 mths
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	no max	90	Fixed at 2.90% to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	1.20	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 months 1% dsc-1 year
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£15-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed - 6 mths, 3% dsc - 6 mths
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	no max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	*3% discount for 12 months*
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths. 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, .5%ovrSVR-10.04

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Loan 'added insult to injury'

From Mr M. Rantzen

Sir, For nearly ten years I *have held the* power of attorney over my late mother's affairs; indeed since December 1993, when she suffered a cerebral haemorrhage, I have been the sole *signatory* to all of her bank and building society accounts.

When my mother died in July of this year I became the sole executor to her will and I now have to pay in full the inheritance tax due on her estate before I can obtain probate. The government advice leaflet states that most banks and building societies will release funds to an executor for the payment of inheritance tax, and this has proved correct in the case of NatWest and Halifax, who have been equally helpful.

Barclays Bank, *however,* will not even issue a cheque made out directly to the Inland Revenue for this *purpose,* even after consulting its head office for assistance. To add insult to injury, it had the impertinence to offer me a bridging loan (*no* doubt at a high interest rate and arrangement *fee!) while* available funds — around £5,000 — lie in this now "frozen" account ... it *was* clearly *a tactical error* on my part to inform the bank of the death.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RANTZEN,
Ashorne Edge,
Fosse Way,
Ashorne,
Warwick.

September deadline has its benefits

From Mr L.K. Brown

Sir, As far as I can see, the real benefit to meeting the *September 30 deadline* for submission of the new self-assessment tax returns applies only to higher *rate employees* who *will* owe taxes on income over and above that taxed at source under PAYE.

The advantage being that ultimately any taxes that are due will *not* be *recovered until* the tax year following the current tax year, through the PAYE system, and since the liability for tax would have technically arisen in the tax year prior to the current year, the employee is receiving the benefit of an interest-free loan from the Revenue for some two years — potentially a significant, and tax-free, benefit.

That certainly was the one and only stimulus to me ensuring that my return was submitted in plenty of time to meet the September 30 watershed. There is no other real reason why anybody else should do so. Failure to meet the deadline means that any taxes due must now be paid over to the Revenue by January 31 in a lump sum.

Yours sincerely,
LEE BROWN,
28 Highfield Road,
Flackwell Heath,
High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire.

Small things can win a lot

From Mr R.Cranston

Sir, Having followed the correspondence that has been published in your Weekend Money Letters column over the past few months, especially from those who hold large blocks of Premium Bonds and who have not had a "fair" return, I have come to the conclusion that perhaps they should all heed the phrase: *"guid gear comes in small* bulk".

I was a founder member of an office *syndicate* of *eight* which commenced in July 1975 when we paid 25p per week to purchase £2 bonds.

Throughout the years, our contributions gradually increased until latterly when ten *individuals were in the fund* paying £10 per month to purchase a £100 bond. On *retiring in April 1995 the fund* was disbanded and I was the proud owner of £2,107 bonds. *Over the years the syndicate* won a smattering of prizes although none was higher than £100. However, since my retirement in *April 1995 I* have won £400. Two of these bonds — one for £50 and one £100 — were from a block of a mere £5.

So from my fund of £2,107 *bonds. I have* won £400 *in* 2½ years — not a bad return at all!

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CRANSTON,
2 Mayfield Avenue,
Musselburgh,
East Lothian.

A point of interest re your iceberg account ...
GED

Credit card charge is unclear

From Dr E.R. Biggart

Sir, Am I the *only* person in *the land who imagined* that, when a monthly Barclaycard account was paid in *part, interest was charged* on the shortfall? Having lately attracted an interest charge *of £8.27 on an underpayment* of £10.28, I now know better. Interest is charged on the whole *amount of the bill* — the paid part as well as the unpaid.

The *company* protests that this is in accordance with accepted banking practice, but is nevertheless a little coy about what it does. On the back of the payment slip it warns: "If you make a part payment ... interest will be charged." It does not say interest on what.

Yours faithfully,
E. BIGGART,
The Admirals, St Briavels,
Lydney, Gloucestershire.

Relieving effects of age trap

From Mr A. Beniston

Sir, Regarding your informative article (Charitable Inland Revenue, *September 13), I* think it is worth pointing out that there is an advantage to *tax payers caught in the age* allowance trap.

In calculating tax liability the Inland Revenue deducts *the grossed-up, covenanted* and gift aid payments from total income thus mitigating *the effect of the slicing of the* age allowance.

Yours faithfully,
A. BENISTON,
16 Leivers Close,
East Leake, Loughborough,
Leicestershire.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

UNITED ASSURANCE has more than doubled provisions for clearing its pensions mis-selling backlog to £150 million in an attempt to meet the deadlines set by the Personal Investment Authority. United risks a large fine from the PIA if it fails.

With just four weeks to go before its deadline for completing priority cases, George Mack, group chief executive, said only half of the 3,300 people involved had been offered compensation. He said the company had "a mountain to climb" to meet the target but would be working hard to do so.

☐ Rumours that the Government is looking more favourably on European economic and monetary union have cut pensions for thousands of people retiring this month. Someone retiring this week with a Prudential pension might expect to receive 5 per cent less each year as a result of the turmoil in the gilt market that followed the speculation.

☐ Shares in Northern Rock opened at 470p as the *former building society* made its stock market debut on Wedenesday, bringing *windfalls* worth £2,350 *for* members who sold out. A total of 208 million shares were traded. The 376,000 members who sold through an auction on Tuesay night will get 451p a share, or £2,255 each. The bank is the last of four societies to float this year. All Northern Rock members received 500 free shares.

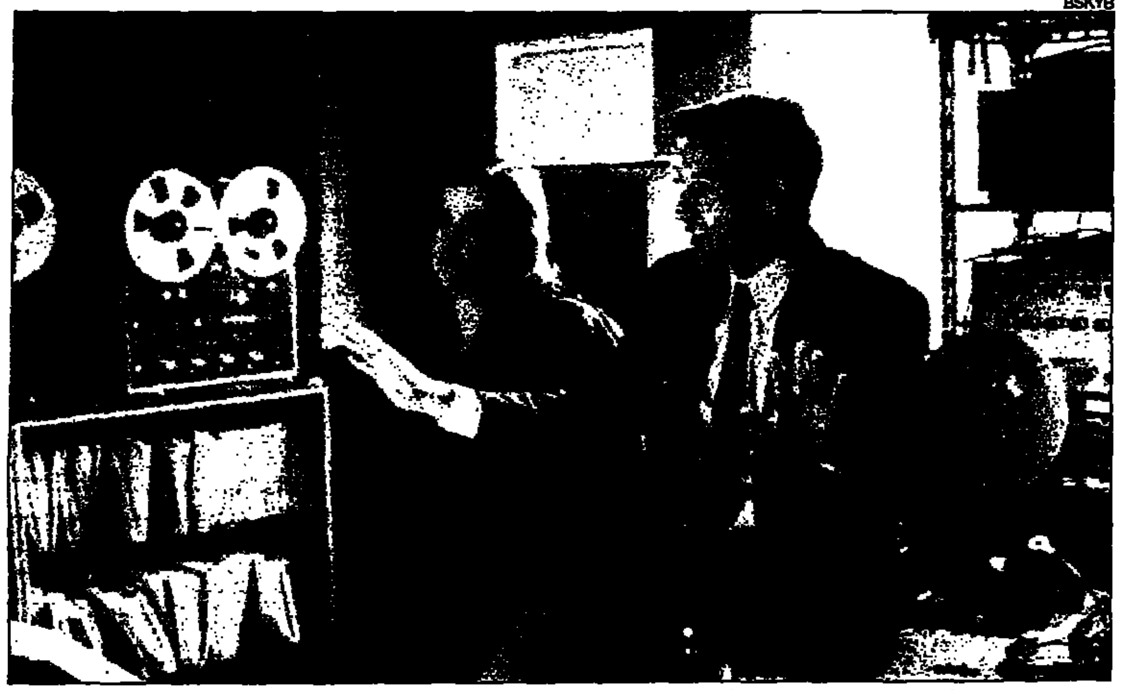
☐ The Halifax dampened speculation that the housing market was overheating when it published figures on Wednesday showing that prices rose just 0.2 per cent in September. This followed a rise of 0.5 per cent in August. Annual price inflation was up slightly at 6.9 per cent. The Halifax said that its annual rate had stayed in the 6 per *cent to 7 per cent range* all year and showed no signs of accelerating.

☐ Friends Provident, one of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, was fined a record £450,000 by the PIA on Tuesday for failing to deal with its pensions mis-selling cases quickly enough. The company must also pay £20,000 costs.

☐ On Monday Midland Bank was fined £150,000 by Imro, the investment regulator, over pensions mis-selling. The high street bank, *which must also pay* costs of £70,706, wrongly advised some customers to leave *their company* pension schemes and take out a personal pension. Midland estimates that it will cost about £45 million to compensate customers affected.

Take a new approach to investing

Theme investing, a new fad from the US, hits the UK this month. Its arrival could puzzle many investors for whom themes would make an unusual moneyspinner. Themes are what you nod your head to when your favourite TV programme comes on, surely? Themes are those big subjects like love, honour and duty, which any decent book, film or play will depend on to keep your interest. Students of history will recognise themes as a great way of talking about centuries of human endeavour in a matter of words. But what have themes to do with stock markets?


BSKYB

X files solution: concentrating on areas like technology can take the mystery out of investing

A lot, says GT Global, which this month launches its Dynamic Theme Fund. The idea is simple. Instead of concentrating on individual countries and sectors, the company proposes dividing the global village into the seven most exciting areas of business activity. Each area or theme will have its own manager who will select between five and ten companies with the best prospects.

The themes which GT has identified for the fund's launch are straightforward enough. Indeed if anything, the themes of telecommunications, healthcare, technology, financial services, natural resources, consumer products and infrastructure are so obvious that one wonders how much added value GT will find. Mike Webb, GT Global's managing director, says: "These themes are easier to grasp because they touch everybody's lives. It is an investment-led idea, not a marketing-led one."

If the themes are familiar, one cannot say the same of many of the stocks that the fund will initially invest in. Many of the high-tech companies benefiting from the growth areas GT has identified are American, although James Ellman, lead fund manager and financial services specialist, says that he has reserved a space for Zagrabacka Banka, a Croatian bank.

Despite the longevity of most of the themes, GT Global says it will be on the constant lookout for good value and is planning on managing the new fund actively. Mr Webb says the portfolio is likely to change completely every year. This, however, should sound a warning note to investors who will have to pay more in fees to dealers, custodians and trustees as a result. Nevertheless, GT has run a similar fund in Canada for a year that has comfortably beaten the MSCI World index, which it uses as a benchmark.

Elsewhere, theme investing appears to have come up trumps. According to fund manager American Phoenix, the largest theme investor, the theme approach is the best way of selecting growth opportunities. Its research shows that buying the wrong stock in the wrong sector can still give you 4.5 per cent growth, but finding the leader of a growth area will produce a magnificent 25.7 per cent return.

American Phoenix takes a more sophisticated approach to its themes than GT. It first identifies megatrends or strategies, such as the "greying of America", and then elaborates tactical sub-themes, such as 21st-century medicine, within which it will have micro-themes, such as women's health. At any time it can have up to 30 themes running, each with an average shelf-life of three years. Phoenix has four theme funds in Luxembourg and is considering launching one in the UK.

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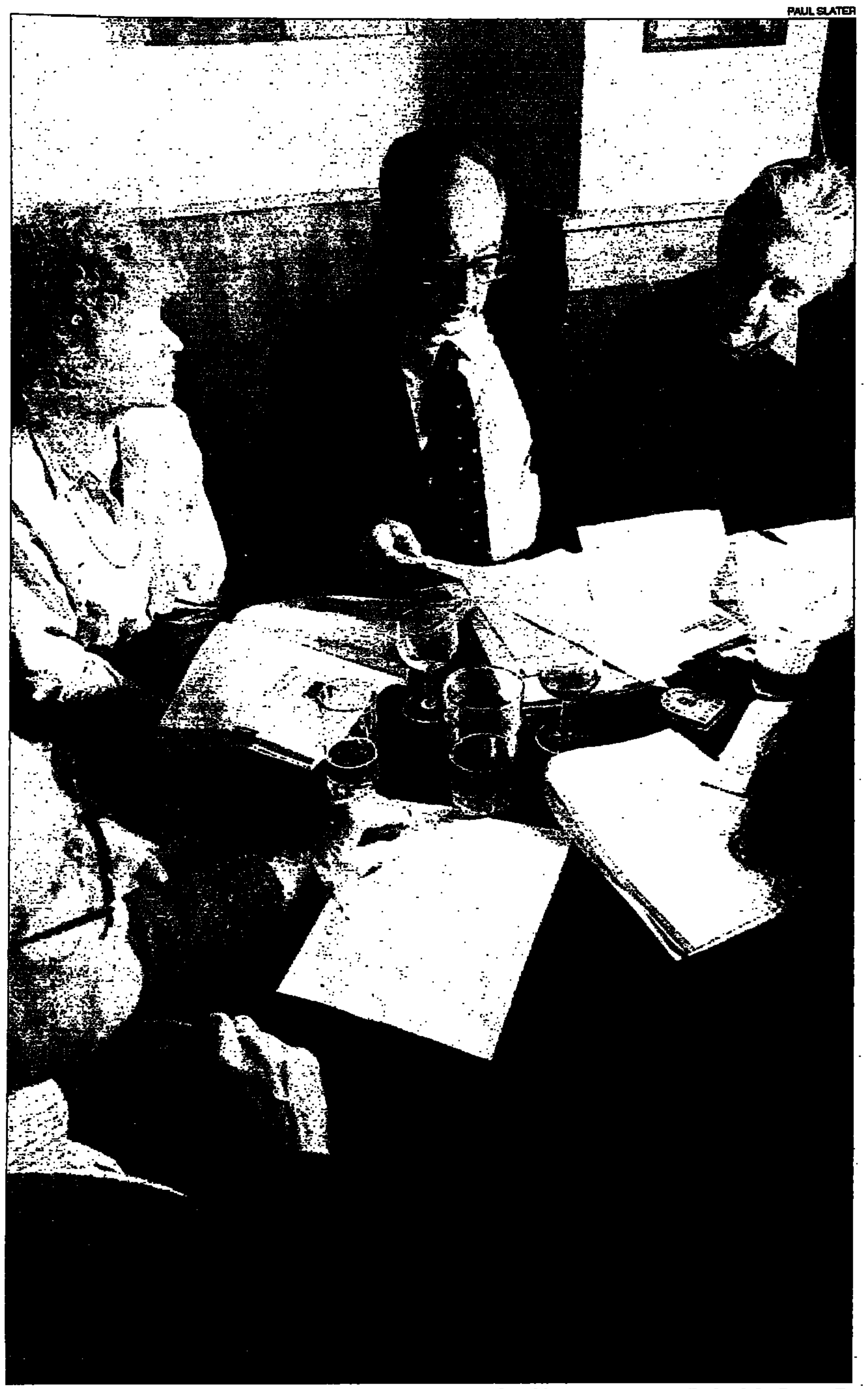
PAUL SLATER



Members of the Victoria Investment Club discussing strategy at the Chiverton Arms, near Redruth in Cornwall

Matthew Wall visits Londonderry and Truro to

Back in black with cautious approach

The number of private investors in the UK now tops 17 million, largely thanks to the conversion of the building societies into banks, and the stock market is attracting interest from the general public as never before.

A good way to learn is by joining an investment club, where members pool monthly contributions of around £20 to £30 to buy shares in companies. *The Times* has been tracking the fortunes of two such clubs, and here we give you the latest investment update.

The Maydown Mergers Investment Club, based in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, has got itself back on an even keel, with its £11,268 portfolio showing a £1,255 profit. A string of disastrous stocks selected from a share-tipping magazine had weighed them down considerably. These have now been thrown overboard and the club is back in the black.

When we visited them last, the members, who each contribute £30 a month, had just introduced a "stop-loss" system. Shares would be sold if they fell by more than 20 per cent of the original price. The system is working well and the club has a more disciplined approach to the management of its portfolio as a result.

Mike Carroll, chairman of the 19-member club, said: "The experience with the loss-makers has made us a lot more cautious. In fact, it has probably made us go too far in the other direction, buying big, boring stocks, like Woolwich and Norwich Union. We generally prefer small stocks because that is where the growth is going to come from. We don't have the patience to think long-term."

The most recent purchase was 300 shares in the Go-Ahead Group, a £240 million transport company. The club believed that the Labour Government's preference for an integrated transport policy would be good for the whole sector. So far they have been proved right, with the share price rising from 485p when they bought to 522p at the last valuation. This translates into a profit of nearly £90 already.

But the club's best-performing stock is still Mayflower, the engineering company, which they bought in two tranches in 1996. The holding of 1,150 shares is showing a profit of more than £650, representing 58 per cent growth on the original investment. By contrast, the biggest loser, which they ditched in August, was Kenmare, an Irish mining company. The club was left licking its wounds after suffering a £613 loss on the original £1,200 investment.

> ‘We now know more about all aspects of personal finance’

All the members of the Maydown investment club work for DuPont, the international chemicals company, so they know a thing or two about technology, and that knowledge is brought to bear in the selection of their stocks.

Tips from stockbrokers and newspaper investment pundits are generally taken with a pinch of salt. They prefer talking to people in other industries to get an inside track. Company research tools include Infotrade, the Internet-based financial data provider, and financial sections in newspapers and magazines.

The best advice they have received so far is: "Never buy a share on a Monday morning." The reason is that market-makers often survey the share-tipping columns of the Sunday papers and mark up the price of tipped stocks before the market opens on Monday, safe in the knowledge that private investors, who know no better, will pile into the market like lemmings and pay over the odds.

In the 18 months that the club has been going, members have grown in confidence. Mr Carroll says: "We are much more knowledgeable about investments now, and we also know more about all other aspects of personal finance, such as pensions and insurance. An investment club is a great place to learn."

The club deals through Sharelink, the execution-only broker, which holds shares on its behalf in a nominee account. So far the club has been happy with the service it has received and has no plans to change.

The same cannot be said of the Victoria Investment Club,

Numbers game at Midshires

While members of the Northern Rock celebrate their £2,260 windfalls this week some of those who hope to benefit from the next demutualisation, the takeover of the Birmingham Midshires Building Society, are becoming concerned that they are to be denied their payouts of £600 plus. The society is being taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Ron Pollitt, a reader from Formby, recently wrote to *The Times* about his qualifying Birmingham Midshires account, which will mature before the takeover is completed. "Birmingham Midshires at this point is unable to say whether or not my 'follow-on' account will give me continuity of membership," he said. "I find this somewhat odd, as with other follow-on accounts I have had with other societies they do not even change the account number."

A spokeswoman for Birmingham Midshires admits that the society has a number of fixed-term accounts that may mature before the takeover is completed and which pose the danger of loss of membership if investors do not take the right steps. She does, however, assure readers that anyone who transfers a maturing account into another qualifying account will be considered to have continuous membership.

"If an account matures between now and completion the membership will be continuous if the money is reinvested," she said. "We will contact people a couple of weeks before their account matures and they can let us know if they want to reinvest all or some of the money or if they want to close the account. The funds can be easily transferred into another investment account or into a straightforward savings account. As long as they meet the minimum requirement, membership rights will be continuous."

There could, however, be trouble if members decide to withdraw some of the money they have invested. "We are several weeks away from knowing if this will affect any potential share of the distribution," the spokeswoman said. And members with a maturing account who remove the funds entirely from the Birmingham Midshires will also forfeit any claims to membership.

The Bank of Scotland bid is contingent on a satisfactory due diligence report, now nearing completion. This may cause problems because Birmingham Midshires has expanded by acquiring mortgage loan books, and the society is believed to have exposure to an unusually high level of risky loans. If the due diligence passes muster, members of Birmingham Midshires will vote on the deal in late spring. If approved, the acquisition should be completed in the second half of next year.

KAREN ZAGOR

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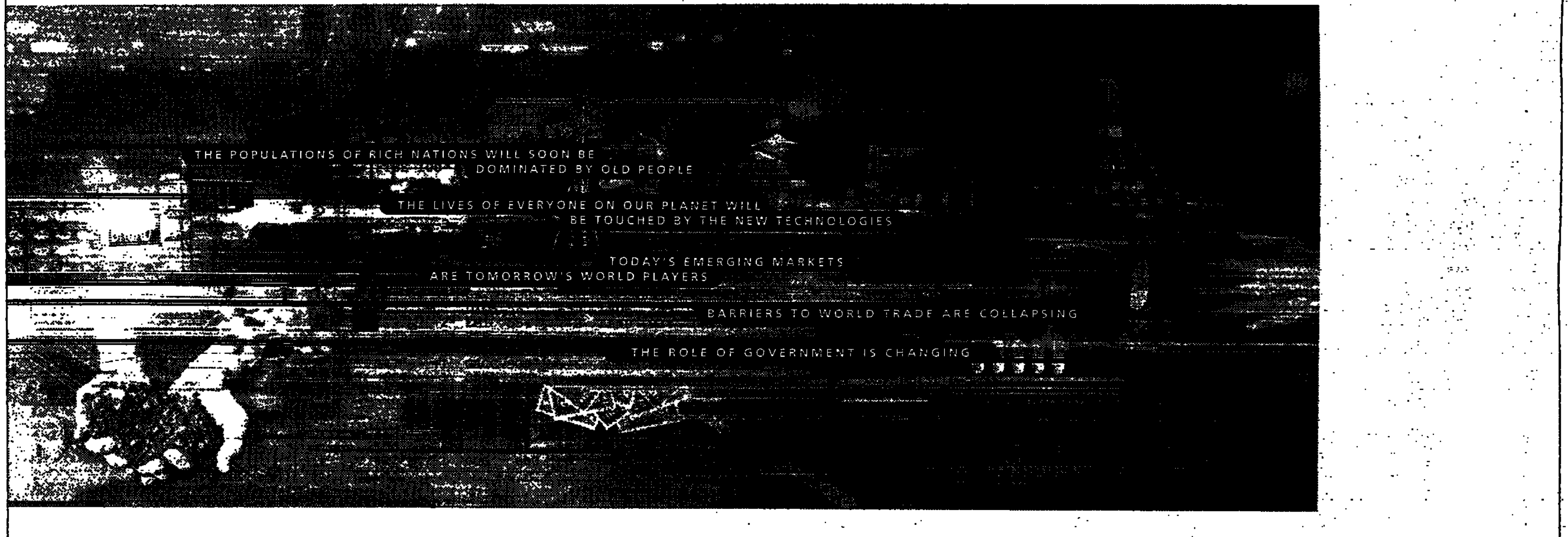
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keep tabs on the investment clubs we have been monitoring

CRISPIN RODWELL

Tips from newspaper investment pundits and stockbrokers are generally taken with a pinch of salt by the members of the Maydown Mergers club

our other case study, based in Truro, Cornwall. A year ago it switched from stockbroker Greig Middleton, which it had used for 11 years, to a cut-price execution-only broker. However, the club is fairly unhappy with the quality of service it has received so far and is considering switching broker again.

Derek Richards, chairman of the 20-member club, which has a portfolio worth more than £21,000, says it switched because dealing costs exceeded £2,000 in 1996. He said: "If you like dealing regularly, as we do, stockbroking costs are very important. But you have to balance cost with quality of service."

The club's small-company investment philosophy is paying off, with the portfolio showing a £4,070 profit. Outstanding performers include Robert Walters, the recruitment agency that specialises in the computer industry. Since the club bought it in March this year the share price has nearly doubled in value.

The club likes investing in small companies that have good cashflow and low borrowing. It also looks out for companies whose directors have been buying shares in their own companies. The main research tool is *Company Refs*, a monthly compendium of company-specific financial data that is now available on CD-Rom.

HOW THE CLUBS ARE PERFORMING

THE VICTORIA INVESTMENT CLUB

Portfolio as at 23/09/97. Value: £21,049.13

	Shares	Price bought*	Price now	Profit/loss (£)
Greenwich Resources	886	56.27p	18.75p	-332.42
Wescol	5,818	39.04p	57.50p	1,073.85
Media Business Group	2,000	61.05p	75.00p	279
Dolphin Packaging	859	174.62p	267.50p	797.85
Mice Group	7,237	6.91p	8.25p	97.05
Television Corp	875	206.31p	215.00p	76.00
Fortune Oil	9,762	12.18p	15.75p	348.20
Linx Printing Tech	1,000	160.79p	151.50p	-92.90
Graseby	1,000	161.80p	208.00p	462.05
Gowrings	1,500	108.87p	105.50p	-50.53
RPS Group	750	213.72p	211.00p	-20.38
Robert Walters	800	191.44p	370.50p	1,432.48
UMECO	588	340.00p	370.00p	176.40
Total				4,070.25

THE MAYDOWN MERGERS INVESTMENT CLUB

Portfolio as at 18/9/97. Value: £11,268.02

	Shares	Price bought*	Price now	Profit/loss (£)
Airtech	1,055	113.42p	90.00p	-247.10
Chiroscience	113	496.49p	277.50p	-247.45
Crest Nicholson	1,000	83.45p	105.00p	215.50
Fortune Oil	4,991	9.46p	15.75p	313.74
Go-Ahead Group	300	492.28p	522.00p	89.15
Mayflower	1,150	110.89p	167.50p	651.05
Norwich Union	364	333.67p	342.50p	32.14
Powerscreen	333	590.90p	702.50p	371.62
Woolwich	333	304.51p	327.50p	78.58
Total				1,255.23

*Includes dealing charges

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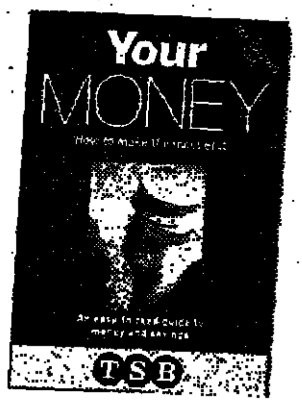

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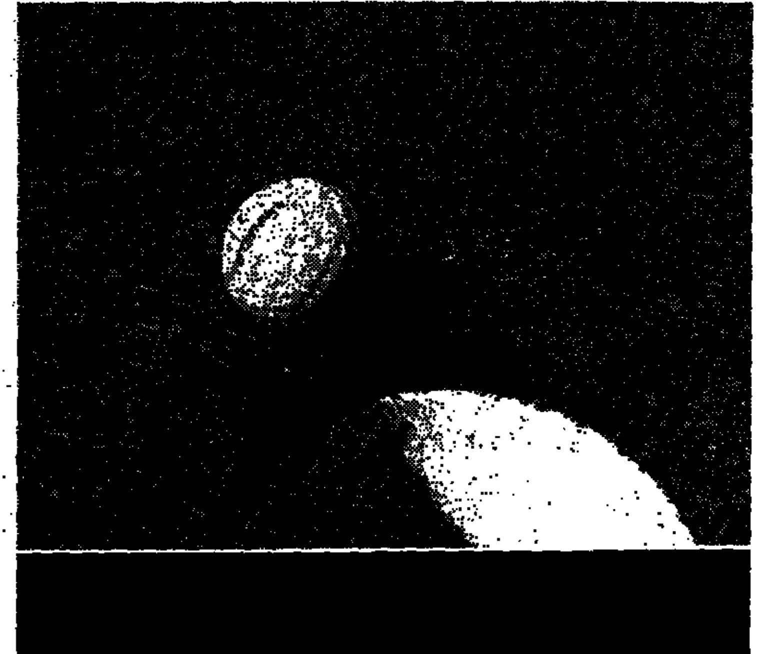

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Customers will benefit in battle of the credit cards

Marianne Curphey assesses the many competing packages on offer

Credit card companies are gearing up for a new battle for market share, and the main beneficiaries will be customers.

Barclaycard is about to relaunch its market-leading credit card with a range of extra services in an attempt to fend off competition from the new American providers that are encroaching on its position.

Meanwhile, Virgin Direct is looking at introducing its own branded credit card after it has launched its new telephone banking operation later this year. Tony Wood, marketing director of Virgin Direct, said the concept of a credit card fitted Virgin's philosophy. He added: "We know there is a lot of pent-up demand for such a product and it is definitely on our wish-list. However, our priority at present is our new banking operation." Virgin has already broken into previously unassailable pension and unit trust markets.

Barclays, which is still smarting from criticism of the high interest rates charged on its Barclaycard, is planning to expand the range of services it offers, perhaps enhancing the insurance and other extras that come with the card. But there is no indication that the company will lower its current interest rate of 1.65 per cent a month (APR 22.9 per cent). Barclaycard also charges a £10 annual fee. In its television advertisement fronted by Rowan Atkinson, Barclaycard emphasises the extras, preferring not to allude to its rate.

HOW THE CARDS COMPARE

No annual fee with long interest-free period	Monthly rate	APR purchases	Int-free	fee
Scottish Widows	1.244%	15.90%	56 days	Nil
Tesco	1.31%	16.90%	56 days	Nil
Scotsman	1.46%	18.90%	56 days	Nil
Low APR with no interest-free period	*Monthly rate*	*APR purchases*	*APR cash*	*fee*
Co-Operative Bank	0.87%	10.90%	13.20%	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P	1.00%	12.70%	14.40%	Nil
RBS	1.14%	14.50%	14.50%	Nil

Source: MoneyFacts

Barclaycard directors refused to comment on the relaunch. There are around 30 million credit cards in circulation in the UK, and Barclays, with 28 per cent, has the largest slice. There are eight million Barclaycard holders. However, its dominance has been slipping as it is challenged by rivals, including the supermarkets, offering a range of perks and lower rates of interest. Another challenger to Barclaycard's dominance is Goldfish, promoted by Billy Connolly dressed as a prophet. The Goldfish APR is now 19.8 per cent, with an introductory rate of 12.9 per cent, which competes with the introductory offers from the American-owned card companies. Goldfish's major attraction is a gas bill discount.

The hidden threat to the business of the UK card providers comes from the American card companies now operating in the UK, sometimes in collaboration with UK banks. Companies such as RBS Advanta, a joint venture between the US-owned Advanta and Royal Bank of Scotland, acknowledge that their target market is creditworthy, high-spending individuals who run up large balances that they cannot repay in full each month.

The most successful to date is Maryland Bank of North America (MBNA) which has 400 charity and affinity cards and has a 3.6 per cent share of the UK plastic card market.

While Barclays attempts to claw back some of the ground it has lost, supermarkets such as Tesco are challenging the banks' traditional territories. As our table of best-buy credit cards illustrates, Tesco offers a Visa card with a 56-day interest-free period, no fee and purchase protection for 90 days for goods which cost between £25 and £500. Tesco has also launched its own bank account which, like its supermarket rival Sainsbury, pays a competitive rate of 6.5 per cent on balances of £1 or more. Sainsbury launched a credit card in February; it has a fee of £10 which is waived in the first year and in subsequent years if you spend a specified amount. It charges a monthly interest rate of 1.431 per cent and has an APR (which takes into account the annual fee) of 19.7 per cent.

Cards with a long interest-free period are ideal for those who pay off their balances in full every month. If, however, you intend to use your credit card for short-term borrowing, then you should be looking at a provider which charges low rates.

According to Vicki Burn, deputy editor of *Moneyfacts*, one of the best cards offering low interest rates is Co-operative Bank's Advantage Visa card. It charges an annual 10.9 per cent on purchases and 13.2 per cent on cash withdrawals. If you buy holiday money or traveller's cheques these will be counted as cash advances. These rates compare favourably with Tesco's APR of 15.9 per cent. However, even Tesco has a better rate than some of the other high street banks.

Moneyfacts says customer inertia means that people tend to stick with the high street banks even when they could improve the deal they get by swapping to a new provider.

NatWest Bank has made much of the Air Miles promotion available with its credit card, but *Moneyfacts* advises potential customers to look carefully at interest rates and card fees when choosing a provider, not just the perks.

CHRIS HARRIS

Sitting pretty: but it can be hard to keep a good relationship with your bank if you are self-employed like Sarah Baxter, an actress understudying Geraldine McEwan in a forthcoming production of Ionesco's *The Chairs*. In Go It Alone, our series for the self-employed, we explain how to stay friends with your bank manager (page 59)

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WEEKEND MONEY

GUIDE 1

Tax-free investment

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Declining interest in mortgages

Nationwide, now the UK's biggest building society, has launched a fixed-rate mortgage where the rate falls over four years — but there is a catch. The rate in the first year is 8.29 per cent; in the second it is 7.49 per cent; in the third 6.99 per cent; while in the fourth year it is 5.99 per cent — an average of 7.19 per cent. The four-year loan does come at a price. It carries an arrangement fee of £295 and anyone who takes out the mortgage will also have to take out buildings and contents insurance.

Philip Williamson, Nationwide's marketing and commercial director, said the product will give borrowers peace of mind in a volatile interest rate environment. He said: "Not only are rates fixed, but they are also guaranteed to fall over time."

A critical aspect of the future movement of interest rates will be whether and when the UK joins in economic and monetary union (EMU). Earlier-than-expected entry, which was rumoured this week, means that rates are likely to fall closer to German rates.

Those that take out this loan take the risk that prevailing interest rates fall below the level of the fixed rate. The loan carries a stiff redemption penalty. Redemption in the first year will cost seven months' interest, redeeming in the second and third years will cost six months' interest, while cancelling the loan in years four and five will cost five and four months' interest respectively. The mortgage will be available for both new and existing borrowers. The starting rate of 8.29 per cent is marginally lower than the 8.49 per cent variable rate offered by the other building societies.

Mortgage brokers London & Country and John Charcol are lukewarm on the product. They point out that there are many better rates available on the market with less severe penalties.

CAROLINE MERRELL

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THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 1997

Jacqueline du Pré with her beloved cello: Her huge talent allowed her to create sublime music but was also the cause of dreadful depression which sometimes affected her so badly that she could not even play her instrument

Beyond sisterly love

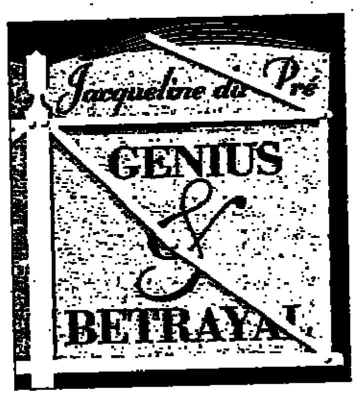
Hilary du Pré tells **Sandra Parsons** how England's greatest cellist tore her family apart

For years, Hilary du Pré had known there was a powerful connection between the man she loved and her sister, Jacqueline. The realisation of it was a defining moment she has never forgotten.

Hilary was 19 and very much in love with Christopher Finzi, the 26-year-old son of the composer Gerald Finzi and known to everyone as Kiffer. Jacqueline was 16 and had just made her stunning debut at the Wigmore Hall, where she was lauded by the critics for her "astonishing mastery" and "thrilling emotional range".

Kiffer called at the du Pré home in Portland Place one morning at ten and, as he and the family chatted in the kitchen, casually asked where Jacqueline was. On being told she was still asleep, he ran upstairs, hauled her out of bed, slung her over his shoulder and brought her down.

"In the mornings we would all creep around so as not to disturb Jackie if she was tired," recalls Hilary. "Mum was expecting an outburst, but Jackie just laughed. And I knew at that moment that Kiffer had done something no one had ever done. We'd always been so careful to support Jackie and look after her, and he had simply marched in. I knew from the way she reacted that something had happened. It was a sort of flash. It didn't worry me but I knew that there was a recognition of something stronger than herself. It's hard being the strongest one, the most powerful one, which she certainly was. It's a terribly hard thing to bear."



The burden of Jackie's genius is a theme to which Hilary returns again and again. She is passionately eloquent about what her sister endured: the dark side of a huge talent which, while it allowed her to create with her cello the most sublime music, was also the cause of dreadful depression and isolation.

And yet most of us would consider that Hilary endured far more. For 25 years she has carried with her a shocking secret, a secret that she has now decided to reveal in a memoir of Jackie co-written with her 47-year-old brother, Piers. It is that, for 16 months between 1971 and 1972, she allowed Jackie (who was still married to Daniel Barenboim) to have an affair with Kiffer, her husband of ten years, and move in with them at their home in the tranquil Hampshire village of Ashmansworth.

At night, Kiffer would retire with Hilary to their bedroom. But in the early hours, with Hilary's full knowledge and acquiescence, he would slip silently into Jacqueline's room and return to his wife only at dawn. Hilary, who was looking after their four young children as well as her grandmother and Kiffer's mother, who lived with them, told no one. So little privacy was there in the house that the only time she and Kiffer could talk alone was in the mornings in the bathroom, when he would reassure her that he would never leave her for Jacqueline.

Reading this is disquieting. Talking about it face to face with Hilary is nothing short of appalling. A 55-year-old music teacher who is renowned for her cooking, she has soft grey hair, wide guileless blue eyes and a scrubbed face glowing with health. In her sensible shoes and woolly jumper she looks so unworldy, somehow, and so *upright*, that the very notion of her participating in such a bizarre ménage à trois seems almost sacrilegious.

We refer to the affair only as

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‘I knew for a long time what was happening. When he threw her over his shoulder that morning, I knew’

DAVID HUAN/MAGNUM

Jacqueline du Pré with her husband Daniel Barenboim during her final concert tour. She was diagnosed as suffering from multiple sclerosis at the age of 28. Her family say her personality deteriorated as the illness progressed

Continued from page 1

"what happened". The word sex is never mentioned and would anyway seem totally out of place in a house where the most sexual objects in sight are the prolific cacti, burgeoning in the conservatory alongside piles of home-grown onions and apples.

Lunch is wholesome: home-made celery and red pepper soup with crusty bread, proper ham and Hilary's aubergine and mint compote, washed down with orange and peach-flavoured water.

Why did she do it? Why did she allow her husband, whom she loved and still loves very much, to have an affair with her sister under her own roof?

Because, explains Hilary, not to have done so would have precipitated her sister into total breakdown. Jacqueline did not want to be with her husband, Daniel Barenboim. She was in the grip of a most terrible depression which meant she could not even play the cello, far less perform, and she needed not only her sister, but her sister's husband, too — the only person she had ever met who was as strong as her.

We talk in the music room. Piers and I sit motionless, silent witnesses to her pain. "It was a very curious thing, because in some ways it was *incredibly* painful and very hard," she says. "But it's even harder to see a sister, who one loves very much indeed, at such an awful state of rock bottom. *So we did everything* we could to help her. And I had the distraction of four children. I wanted to keep life going happily and well for them. And if things became too much then a chat was given. Our bathroom chats."

It seems little solace, but Hilary is surprised at the notion that she might have expected more. She can remember only one occasion when it all became too much and she ran into the garden at breakfast time to curl under a bush and weep; on her return, she told Kiffer she thought Jacqueline wanted to take him away. "Don't be so silly, Hil," he told her. "I wouldn't let her do that. I wouldn't leave you."

"I never lost faith in Kiffer," she insists. Did he realise how hard it was for her? "Of course he did, which was why we had our chats about it all the time. He was very aware. He couldn't not be."

Was she never tempted to scream: "Stop this"?

"Oh no. I would have broken Jackie. I couldn't have lived with myself if I'd stopped it and had to watch Jackie walking away. I don't think I would ever have forgiven myself. Kiffer and I knew that we would always be there together, whatever happened. Had we broken Jackie en route . . . I couldn't have done that.

"If I had put a stop to it I would have been unfaithful to her, totally unhelpful. It would have come out as being selfish, because I knew that Kiffer would never leave and so from that point of view I was safe. Jackie wasn't safe. Her life was in turmoil, she was on the point of breaking and I didn't want to be the person who finally broke her. I couldn't have *lived with that. What* could she have done? Where could she have gone? There was nothing. She would have gone into a void. It would have been the cruellest thing I could do. *Her life was hard enough* anyway, having to live with the genius that she had; it ruled her life."

It was, I tell her, an extraordinary act of love. Hilary stubbornly shakes her head. "I wouldn't have done anthing else. I couldn't have. I did it because that was what had to happen. It was the only way I could cope with the situation and with myself at the time. It was all I could do, and in the end it still wasn't enough." Not enough? To have shared her husband *still* wasn't enough? "No. *Because she got multiple* sclerosis and she died."

But that, *I* say gently, would have happened anyway. It was not because of you. Hilary shakes her head again, and tears gleam in her eyes. "Maybe if I'd been able to say to her, say to Kiffer, 'Just go with Jackie, that's fine' — and I *could* have said that — then maybe she wouldn't have got MS and died. I don't know that it's not true."

‘If I had put a stop to it, it would have broken Jackie completely’

She is sure she failed her sister, and refuses to accept that few would have done as much as she did. "Maybe they just haven't talked about it. I don't believe I'm the only person. I did it because I had to do it, because I wanted to do it for Jackie. I didn't sit down and ponder. I mean, I knew it was coming. I knew for quite a while, long before Kiffer did, because I knew Jackie very well. When he threw her over his shoulder that morning in Portland Place, I knew then.

"I'd been saying for ages, 'You know she wants you, don't you, Kiffer?' and he'd say, 'Don't be so silly, of course she doesn't.' He didn't feel it then. But it became obvious. You pick up on something. I knew it was going *to happen* and as soon as it did, he told me. It was when Jackie called him to go and see her in London, and she just sounded completely mad. He had to go *to her and I knew that he had* to. He came back later that day and told me, and the next morning Jackie arrived. I began to wonder how on earth I would face her then, because although I knew it was going to happen, when these sorts of things *do* happen it is still an awful shock. On the other hand it was wonderful to see her again, and such a relief to be able to embrace her."

It sounds almost too saintly to be true. Surely she must have been jealous, resentful? She had, after all, always lived *in her sister's shadow. Despite* being a talented musician herself, it was clear even when they were children that Jacqueline's gift was phenomenal. The memoir contains a moving account of the time when they both played at a concert for prizewinners of the Purley and Coulsdon Festival. Hilary was 11; Jacqueline, eight. Hilary proudly received her medal, but was devastated when, before Jacqueline was presented with hers, a speech was given about her remarkable and outstanding talent. As the audience rose to its feet and cameras clicked, Hilary was forgotten. She ran down a dark corridor to cry. On her return she realised no one had missed her. As she grew up, her compensation was a husband she loved, four children and a cosy family life in the country — and then her sister wanted to take that away, too.

"I didn't really have jealous feelings, that's much too strong a word," says Hilary. "That time at the Purley Festival, I didn't say anything to anyone. The only *thing* I said to Mum and Dad after I'd been crying was that I had a headache. But it was *no fault* of Jackie's. It was just the effect it had on me. I was the only person who could cope with it, no one else could, and so it was no different when Jackie came here. I just had to cope with it silently. It was almost easier doing that, not having any *input from anybody else, no* one saying 'oh how terrible for you, you should never let that sort of thing happen, it's appalling.' That would have been very hard indeed.

"But because I knew it was happening for the very best reasons, because it was the only way Jackie could possibly survive at that time, it wasn't difficult. It was often painful, but it wasn't difficult. And for one reason or another we have always done that since we were small. So it was just a progression. It wasn't any*thing new or surprising. It was* just instinctive to do that for Jackie. At the Purley Festival, I realised that the only way to protect myself was to go and support Jackie, and there's nothing wonderful about *that* at all . . . I was purely looking after myself. Can you understand that? Have I made that clear?"

She and Piers decided to write the book because they wanted to portray Jackie not as an icon, which is how she has been viewed since her death from multiple sclerosis *in October 1987, but as a real* person: a very human genius.

They suffered hugely while she was ill, and have continued to do so after her death. A biography published in June 1989 by the American writer Carol Easton accused them of practically abandoning their sister during the 12 years when she was increasingly bed-ridden with multiple sclerosis: the truth, as they reveal it, was very different. Barenboim did not want the Easton biography written and asked Hilary and Piers not to talk to her. They respected his wishes, but it meant they were unable to tell their side of the story. Afterwards, they considered it more dignified to keep silent.

Far from abandoning her, they say, they visited her often, as did their parents. But Jacqueline's personality changed. Imprisoned by her illness, unable to do the only thing which made life worth living — playing the cello — she became bitter, resentful and angry. In consequence, she lashed out at those closest to her.

Hilary would visit and be told by Jacqueline that their *parents had not been to see her* for weeks; her nurse, Ruth Ann, would remind her that in fact they had visited the previous day. It reached the point, says Piers, when visiting Jac*queline became an ordeal they* dreaded. "You would think, why on earth come here when she actually doesn't want that? Her belligerence would just make you shrivel up. When it was time to go and see Jackie you could see the torment in Mum, dreading what she was going to find."

"Poor old Mum," says Hilary. "She had given her life to Jackie, which Jackie needed very much. The link between them was very precious and wonderful, but when Jackie became ill she abused it again and again. But despite all that verbal abuse Mum still went to see her regularly.

"It upset me very much because I couldn't understand how Jackie could behave like that. I realise now that it was because of the illness and she couldn't help it, but at the time so little was known about MS, we just didn't know."

Not all patients with MS undergo such character changes. Hilary and Piers believe it affected Jackie particularly because she was a genius, and because for her the pain of not being able to play the cello was unbearable.

"When Mum died Jackie couldn't cry — physically, for medical reasons to do with the disease, she couldn't. But she was so devastated that for days she couldn't, wouldn't, *believe that Mum had gone.*"

Their mother, Iris, was a remarkable woman. A former concert pianist herself, she realised Jackie's prodigious talent early on. When, at the age of four, Jackie *heard the* cello on the radio and said "Mummy, I want to make *that* sound", she bought her one for her next birthday. Every night she would compose little songs, all beautifully illustrated, and leave them at the foot of Jacqueline's bed for her to find in the morning.

Yet when Jacqueline became ill some critics blamed her mother, saying she had pushed her too hard, too young. Iris, say Hilary and Piers, found this devastating.

"Geniuses do demand an enormous amount of input, and so often Mum has been accused of driving Jackie and apparently wishing her own success on Jackie, but it was *Jackie* who was the driver," says Hilary. "She drove Mum, she drove us all. She couldn't help it. She didn't know she was doing it, nor did we know

Continued on page 3

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Part I: The sister we loved

It has taken the cellist's family many years to come to terms with her talent and her untimely death

HILARY

OCTOBER 1987
Jackie died on Monday and the funeral was two days later. My brother Piers, his wife Lin and I drove to Rock House in Buckinghamshire to collect Dad. He greeted us at the door wearing his bowler, as the Rabbi had requested he should bring a hat. Since none of us had been to a Jewish funeral before, we had no idea what to expect.

We arrived far too early and the cemetery seemed deserted. I wandered into the graveyard and found the hollow tomb where Jackie was to go. Bouquets were being delivered and I suddenly realised that I had forgotten the flowers I had picked from the garden for Jackie. They were still on the kitchen table. I ran to the nearest florist. Glorious bouquets were spilling on to the pavement, making a blanket of colour.

I picked my way between them. "This is incredible, all these flowers..." "Oh, yes," came the reply. "There's a big funeral today. The great cellist Jacqueline du Pré has died, and I just can't keep up with the orders . . . Can I help you?"

The florist looked aghast as tears streamed down my face. Through my sobs, I tried to explain that I needed a flower for my sister. I chose one pale, creamy-pink rose with a gorgeous scent that Jackie would have loved. I put my hand in my pocket and found I had left my purse at home. The florist gave me the rose. I tried to thank her properly, but could only whisper.

I ran wearily back to the little synagogue. I opened the door. There, on a trolley in the peaceful, wooden room, was Jackie's coffin, covered with a black shroud. Silently I told her I loved her, and said goodbye.

After a while I turned to find a rabbi waiting quietly at the door. He had one of the kindest faces I have ever seen. He put his arm around me.

"Many will claim they were her best friend," he said. "Many will claim they alone understand what she needed. But your memories of your sister are unique. Let no one interfere or take them from you." He hugged me and whispered, "Never forget that."

Jacqueline was given her first cello for her fifth birthday. She referred to it as "my whopping creature"

AFTER Jackie died, all the press cuttings, letters, diaries and family photographs which Dad had so carefully collected for the family archives, were left untouched. We had no desire to look at any of them: it would be far too painful.

As the years went by, we found ourselves taking on the role of ambassadors for the Jacqueline du Pré Appeal. These projects were always centred around Jackie the icon, allowing us to function at a superficial level, keeping the pain at bay. We had not yet begun to realise we were running away from very powerful emotions.

In 1994, we went to a fund-raising event at Claridges. During the evening, a new film about Jackie was screened. The moment Jackie appeared on the screen I froze. The commentary spoke of her genius and glorious talent, but the look in her eyes shattered me. I didn't see Jacqueline du Pré, the great cellist; I saw my sister behind a professional façade. I was struck by her appalling vulnerability in stark contrast to the security and vibrancy of her music-making.

I COULD no longer bear to witness my sister being publicly enshrined because of her genius — a genius which had been destructive not only to her personally but also to our family.

On the way home from Claridges, Piers and I talked openly for the first time about our feelings and the powerful emotions we had repressed for so long. We decided we simply had to protect our family memories. We would have to burn everything. We agreed to meet at his house to have one last look through the boxes.

PIERS

THE VERY thought of looking at the vast amount of family material was already bringing painful memories to the surface. Beautiful memories, but oh, so painful. Painful, because I was beginning to discover that I had never really grieved for Mum, Jackie or Dad: it had all happened far too quickly, and in Jackie's case, far too publicly.

In the cellar we opened the box labelled "J's letters — Box I". Dad had certainly kept things in order. The first letter was addressed to me:

Dearest Bar . . . There — in Jackie's writing — was her favourite nickname for me. Another letter started, "Dear Fart Face". Suddenly it was as if Jackie was actually talking to us. Her roguish sense of humour, her crazy observations of people and life were with us anew. Suddenly, we looked at each other. "Hil," I said, "burning this would be the same as burning Jackie."

HILARY

THE past came flooding back with violent intensity. A torrent of confusing emotions swept over me. I was happy to remember our laughter; I was angry about her death; I felt guilty; and I was frightened to look back in case we found why she had been taken from us. By retracing our lives through this story, we hope that we will be able to create an honest portrait of Jackie, the sister we knew behind the public image; and in so doing, rediscover the sister we lost so many years ago.

©Hilary and Piers du Pré 1997

Hilary tells of an emotional meeting with Daniel Barenboim, many years after Jacqueline's death

'I don't visit her grave'

IN AUTUMN 1995 I needed to talk to Daniel. By chance he was coming to London the following week for a few days, so he suggested we should meet at the Hyde Park Hotel at 6pm on Monday.

I arrived far too early. I stood by the dressing table in the cloakroom which was covered in a chintzy fabric, decorated with creamy pink roses reminding me of the rose I'd chosen for Jackie on the day of her funeral. The cloakroom attendant came in, her presence jolting me from my daydream. I glanced at the clock: it was time.

The receptionist contacted Danny. "Hilary!"

I turned and there he was, smiling at me; that powerful figure from my sister's past. We fell into a spontaneous embrace. I felt an instant warmth towards him.

We settled in comfortable chairs in the bar and he lit a huge cigar, which enveloped me in a cloud of smoke. He waved his arms furiously, trying to fan it away from my face. "I'm sorry. Excuse me."

There was a silence, as we both waited for the other to speak. "Danny, I know you don't like talking about private matters, so if you don't wish to respond to some questions, I understand."

"It's OK," he said. "Sometimes I can talk about Jackie and sometimes I can't. It's OK to talk about her now, but tomorrow it may be different."

He was as relaxed as I had ever seen him. If he didn't want to answer a question, he just looked through me. But I loved listening as he talked about Jackie and her ruthlessness with music. I asked him about their first meeting when, instead of talking, they played together. His dark eyes lit up with the memory.

"I WAS flabbergasted by her personality and her ability to be at one with the music. She was the music. When Jackie played the cello it was always to the limit. She had such a passionate relationship with music and such a sense of intonation that she was able to be totally reckless with the instrument. The cello had never met anyone like Jackie before." We both laughed.

"You know, Mum was very hurt by all the criticisms that she had pushed Jackie and forced her to . . ."

"Listen," he said, "Jackie never did anything she didn't want to do. She had a total conviction that her instincts were right, and never doubted herself. That's why her playing was so direct. It was as natural for her to play as to pick up this glass of water. Wild horses wouldn't move her if she didn't want to move . . ."

He laughed heartily. Another long draw on his cigar, which was now growing a precarious tip of ash.

"With most people you feel that only a part of their day is dedicated to music, practising and performing. With Jackie it was the other way around. Her day was music, which left her with X number of hours to do something else. She spent all day long with music.

"When she started playing she could bring the sound into the world in exactly the way she wanted. She surprised me with every performance."

"Do you miss her?"

He was silent for a while.

"Very much . . . I still get a funny feeling when I visit London, even now."

"Do you ever visit the grave?" "No, I don't go." He shrugged. "But I don't visit my mother's grave either."

©Hilary and Piers du Pré 1997

● *Extracted from A Genius in the Family, by Hilary and Piers du Pré, published by Chatto & Windus at £16.99. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459.*

CLIVE BARDA

Barenboim with Jacqueline, confined to a wheelchair

PETER NICHOLLS

Revealing the family secret: Hilary du Pré and brother Piers

'No one can know what it was like living with Jackie'

Continued from page 2

that we were following her. I don't think anyone can imagine what it is like to have a Jackie living in the family, and I say that with great love. But no one who has not experienced that can possibly imagine what it takes. It's not only difficult for the family, it's extremely difficult for the possessor of that genius.

"When you're a child you just accept the situation, as children do, but from an adult point of view the weight of having someone like that, and the amount of time that person requires, are huge. Because someone like Jackie was so evolved in one direction but still a little girl in another. Geniuses may be aged eight but emotionally they may be aged 50 or 70, going through all those things one goes through then, able to understand those things, and that produces the most extraordinary dilemmas.

"Thank goodness Jackie had the cello, through which at least she could talk about those emotions. She didn't know she was understanding adult emotions when she was a very little girl, but she was, because you could see her doing it with her cello. She could make people cry, she could make people laugh. She played the Elgar with such poignancy as a young girl, and that must be incredibly hard to bear. How do you relate to other ten-year-olds when you can do that? It sets you apart.

"Nobody could be with Jackie for long without being reduced by her. People could remain friends with her as long as they saw her occasionally, then they could take it, but people couldn't live with her week in, week out, because she unwittingly destroyed them. She was too great for them. She knew that but she couldn't control it. Her will was so powerful that she couldn't govern it. Ordinary people learn how to temper their will, so that we can get on with others, but Jackie couldn't do that. She was driven by it."

The only person ever to oppose that will was Kiffer. His affair with Jacqueline ended after a friend gave him RD Laing's *Sanity and Madness in the Family* and he realised that what Jacqueline needed was psychotherapy. She agreed, and recovered enough to be reconciled with Barenboim and to play professionally for another year, until multiple sclerosis prevented her from continuing.

Years later, when she was very ill, she phoned Kiffer from her home in London and demanded that he come and make love to her. But Kiffer said no. "He just said gently, 'Jackie, it wouldn't work. We can't go back. I'm afraid the answer must be no'," says Hilary. "She slammed the phone down and I can understand why, because no one ever said no to her."

Did Hilary also know it wouldn't work? She takes a deep breath. "My instinct would have been just to say, 'oh well Kiffer, off you go', although I desperately didn't want it. But I said nothing; it was his decision. She was almost bedridden then and completely numb physically. Anything anyone did for her then only made her angry, so I think Kiffer was absolutely right. It wouldn't have done her any good."

Hilary and Kiffer are still, after 26 years, extremely happy, she says. "We are together because we want to be together. What else can I say?" Kiffer, who runs his own health-food business, entirely supports his wife and brother-in-law's decision to publish the book, although he has decided he does not want to talk about it publicly. It is, he feels, *their* memories about *their* sister.

Hilary first wrote their story in the form of a letter to her dead mother. It took her four months and filled several exercise books, in longhand. When she had finished she showed it to Kiffer, who burst into tears. Then she gave it to Piers, who read it in the music room, weeping. It was the first he had known of the affair and reading it, he says, "made me feel immensely sad for Hil, having to carry it on her own. I was also sad for Kiffer, and sad for Jackie. And yet I have to say it didn't feel wrong.

"Something can be very truthful but not be the whole story, and if we were going to tell this then it had to be the full story. Otherwise it was going to be wrong. The only way to judge this book is to say, 'Jackie, is this all right, is this truthful?' We used that as the yardstick. Would she be ashamed of this book? No."

Both he and Hilary know they may be condemned for revealing the truth about their sister. Hilary and Kiffer's four children, all now adults, will be reading the book for the first time this weekend. How will they react to the news about their father? "I think they will be fine about it," says Hilary firmly.

She and Jacqueline never discussed Kiffer. "We just accepted that it was happening. We very often didn't talk in our family; we knew instinctively what the others were feeling or needing, without having to say it.

"I think Jackie knew I would support her, whatever it took. She tested me to the ultimate. But I know she would have done the same for me."

ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

The night Hilary woke up to find not just her husband in bed, but Jacqueline too

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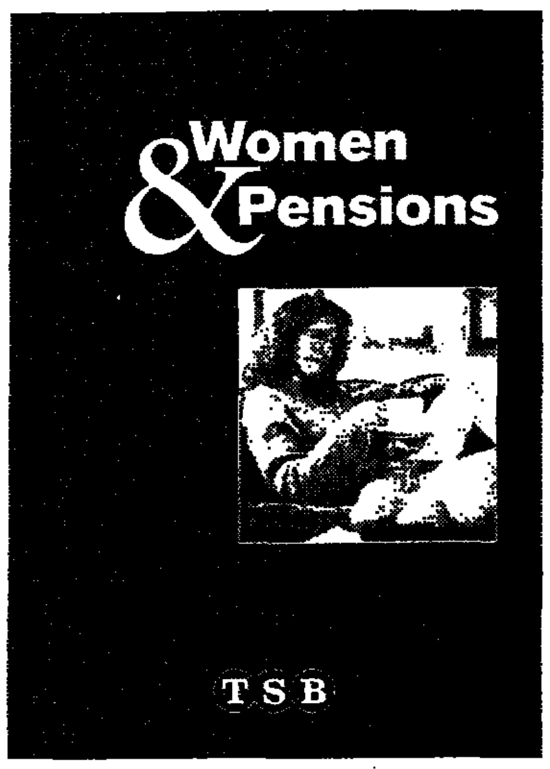

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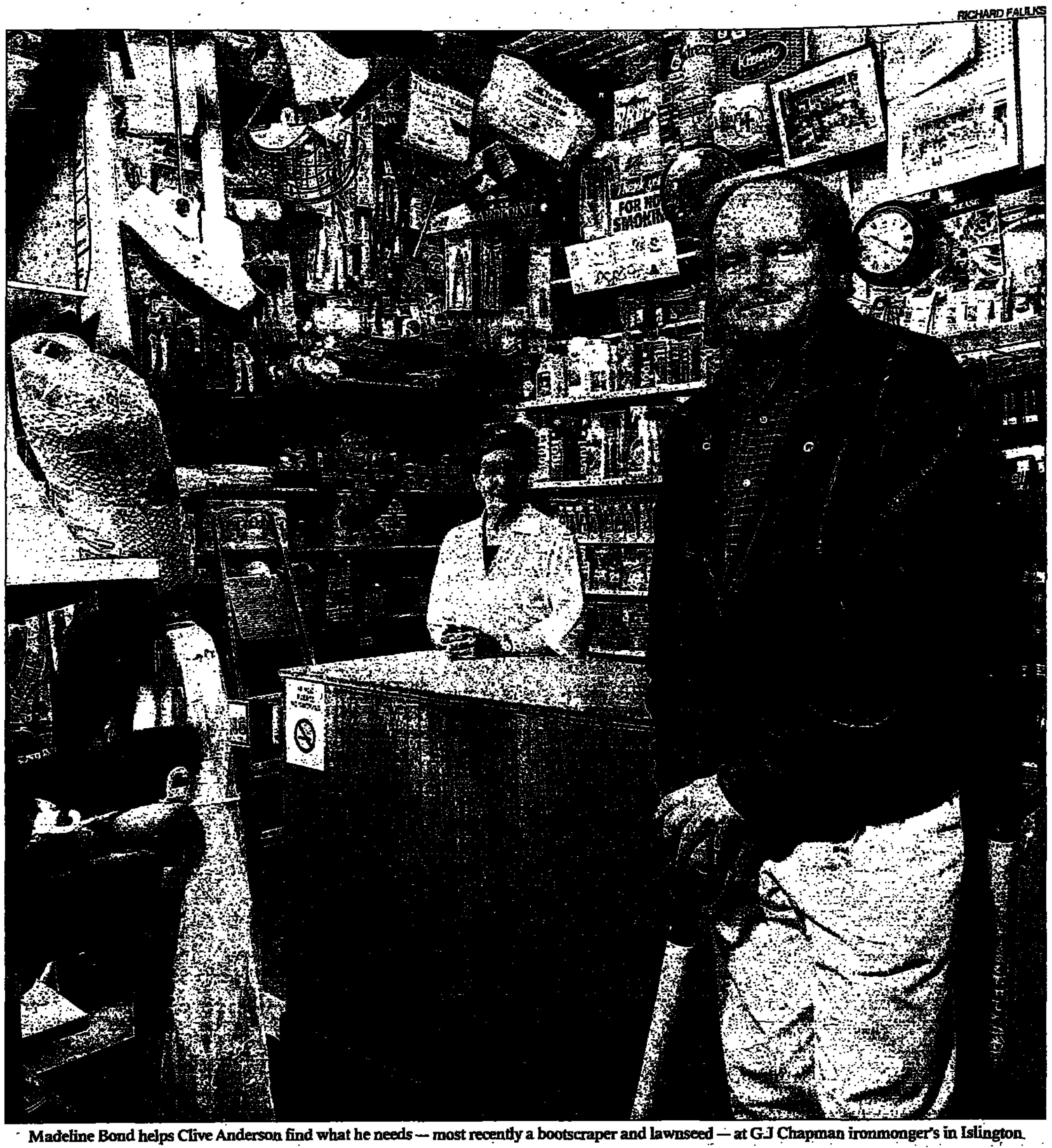
Clive Anderson tells **Michael Cable** how he enjoys the banter while buying from G.J. Chapman

The nuts and bolts of humour

RICHARD FAULKS

Cornershop atmosphere with superstore choice



Madeline Bond helps Clive Anderson find what he needs — most recently a bootscraper and lawnseed — at G.J Chapman ironmonger's in Islington.

In Charlie Bond's little north London ironmongery and "domestic supplies" shop the repartee is already flying thick and fast — and Clive Anderson hasn't even arrived.

Bond has been behind the counter at G.J. Chapman for 50 years; he started at the age of 13 as a Saturday boy, went to work there full-time when he left school and then, when the owner died, took over the business. Many of his customers knew him as a boy, and treat him as an old friend — the presence of a photographer in the store is cause for much banter.

It is this local corner-shop atmosphere that particularly appeals to Clive Anderson, who goes there for "the sort of household items you have to describe because you don't know quite what they're called". He adds: "Despite the fact that the premises are so small and cramped, they always seem to have what you want, however unlikely. If it's not on display they will disappear into the back and return with a choice of three. It must be like the Tardis out there."

From teapots to mousetraps and from doormats to paraffin — served on draught with old-fashioned beer-pulls retained from the days when this was one of their main lines — the shop stocks just about everything you need for household, garden and DIY. "People come in and say 'I bet you haven't got so-and-so', but nine-times out of ten we have," says Mr Bond's sister Madeline, who helps out part-time.

Anderson, who used to live just around the corner in Islington and who still pops in even though he has moved to Highbury, recalls that his most recent purchases were a bootscraper and a packet of lawn seed. "And one of those buckets with a bit where you can squeeze the mop out," he adds, miming the action.

He is not sentimental about the rise of the supermarket at the expense of the corner shop, he says. "I can see the point of supermarkets because if you want a load of stuff it's easier to get it all under one roof. But with this sort of place it's different. Even though they don't have a fraction of the space, they somehow seem to stock a wider range of goods than the big DIY superstores. You don't have to queue for ages at the checkout and the assistants do actually know what they're talking about if you need some advice."

He even rather relishes the sound of the word. "There aren't many mongers left these days," he says, rolling the syllables around on his tongue, "just ironmongers, fishmongers and warmongers. If I were going to run a shop, I'd want to run an ironmonger's. There's a certain absurd charm to it."

my favourite shop

Such a career change seems unlikely, even for a man who has already been a barrister, a stand-up comic, a scriptwriter and a quick-witted chat show host (*Clive Anderson All Talk*, Thursdays, BBC1, 10.20pm). It is true that barristers and entertainers have something in common, he agrees: "There is an element of performance in being a barrister, although the audience is smaller, basically just 12 people. Even Channel 5 would find that on the low side," he chuckles.

He started doing comic routines while a practising barrister, doing stand-up at the Comedy Store as well as writing scripts for the likes of Frankie Howerd. "When you start at the Bar you don't make any money to speak of, so it was quite a useful sideline," he says.

Through that he drifted via radio into television and to the show in which his guests are lucky to get a word in at all, never mind the last one. Those who have managed to give as good as they got include Dennis Healey, Nigel Lawson, Charlton Heston and Mikhail Gorbachev. "Gorbachev and his translator turned out unexpectedly to be a great double act," he recalls.

If his television career ever fizzles out he might consider going back to the law, he says. "Or maybe I could open an ironmonger's shop."

● *G.J.Chapman, 10 Penton Street, London N1 (0171-837 7525). Open Mon-Sat, 8.30am-5.30pm, Sun 9.30am-2pm.*

Real corkers in the pulling stakes

FOR OPENERS

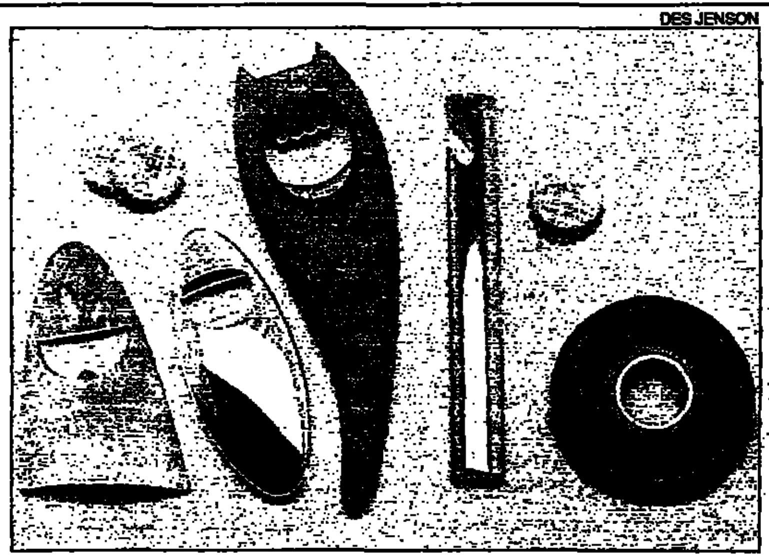
SINCE 1795, when the first corkscrew was designed by clergyman Samuel Henshall, much effort has been expended in trying to improve it. Realising the potential of the perfect corkscrew in Britain, where wine drinking has increased 14 per cent in five years, inventors are constantly recreating shapes and improving mechanisms. Few in our search have perfected it, although one collector, who is a member of the worldwide Corkscrews Anonymous, says he owns a real corker, made in 1882, for which he paid nearly £11,000.

Ossie Gray, wine buyer for the River Café, says there is only one rule to ensure a clean extraction: always place the point of the corkscrew in the centre of the cork.

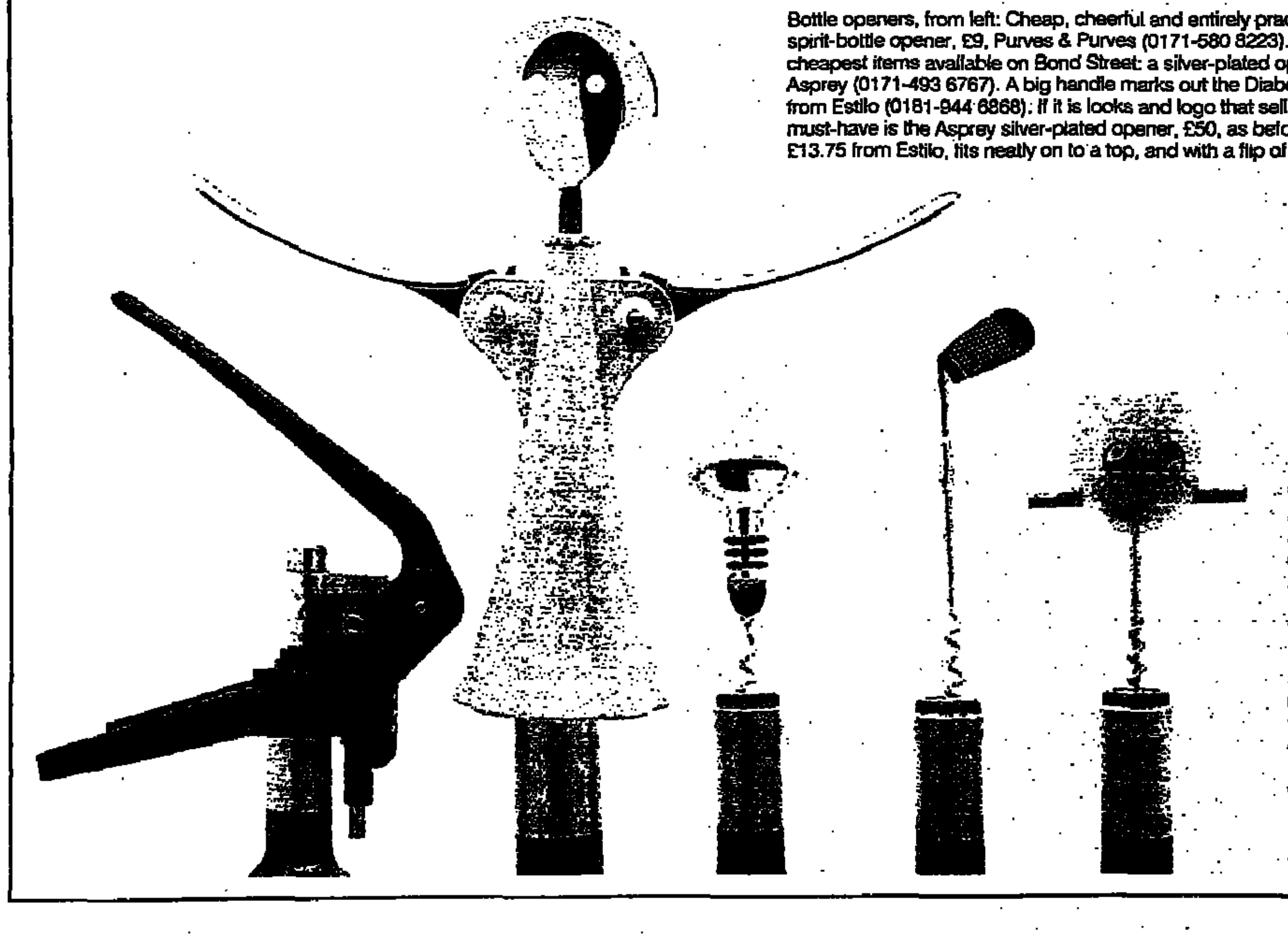
The lever corkscrew pictured below was virtually failproof; but the ornamental versions, in the shape of golf clubs or flowers, were difficult to use and not always successful. Unlike the bottle-openers, featured right, there is a great difference between corkscrews that work and those that don't.

CAROLINE GRIFFITHS

DES JENSON



Bottle openers, from left: Cheap, cheerful and entirely practical stainless steel spirit-bottle opener, £9, Purves & Purves (0171-580 8223). Surely one of the cheapest items available on Bond Street: a silver-plated opener, £35, from Asprey (0171-493 6767). A big handle marks out the Diabolix, £10.95, by Alessi from Estilo (0181-944 6868). If it is looks and logo that sell a product to you, a must-have is the Asprey silver-plated opener, £50, as before. The Bottle Opener, £13.75 from Estilo, fits neatly on to a top, and with a flip of the wrist, knocks it off



Corkscrews; from left: Lever-model, £105, from Presents for Men (01295 750100), is made of heavy-duty plastic and does it all for you. Anna, £38 from Estilo, as above, is about to be launched in a new range of colours, but she is more personality than utility. The silver-plated *three-in-one*, £25 from the Louise Bradbury Gift Collection (mail order, 0171-589 1442), is a corkscrew, bottle opener and bottle-stopper. The solid silver golf club, £290 from Asprey, as above, is difficult to grip, making it little more than an expensive ornament. The little Twergie, in fuchsia maple wood, £17, looks better standing up then pulling a cork but it works fairly well.

GADGETS

"WHOA, check it out" is the catchphrase of MTV's anarchic couch potatoes Beavis and Butthead, and it features in the Beavis and Butthead TV Talker. This is a rubberised model of the tearaways that sits on top of the telly and spurts out snickering B&B comments whenever you change channels.

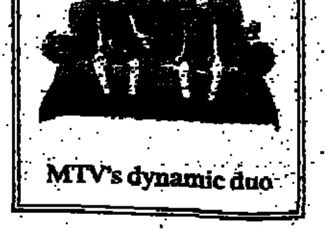
The one-size-fits-all sayings happily suit most programmes most of the time, such as "What the hell is this crap?", "What a bunch of dumb asses", and "This sucks, there's no nudity".

With just a dozen remarks the repertoire is too limited and repetition deadens the gag. Equally tedious, it is triggered by any remote control used within range.

The unit is handicapped by poor design: it is powered by four AAA batteries in a screw-closed compartment. The unit only turns off automatically after 45 minutes — which is far too long — to deactivate it before then, you must remove the batteries.

TIM WAPSHOTT

Beavis and Butthead TV Talker, £29.95 plus p&p, from the Gadget Shop (01482 860860).



MTV's dynamic duo

Miss Ma
come
to tow

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Miss Marple comes to town

Designers have given the country classic a radical update. **Heath Brown** celebrates the trendy rise of tweed

If you thought tweed was only worn by Women's Institute tea ladies, think again. The look favoured by Miss Marple has been revived, and lightly flecked wools in rough, rustic textures are invading the catwalks and high-streets.

And it is not only the prim and proper who are wearing it. Tweed styles of the Nineties have been updated and are now suitable for every age group and every type of woman, from students to society sophisticates.

"Tweed is the classsic fabric of the British Isles," says Roger Saul, designer-in-chief of Mulberry, whose latest range includes vivid mustard and kingfisher-blue suits that are closely fitted in a very simple, contemporary cut. "It has been the mainstay of traditional country looks for most of the century but today we are using it with cleaner lines and sharper tailoring. It is altogether less frumpy and dowdy, and now really suits everyone."

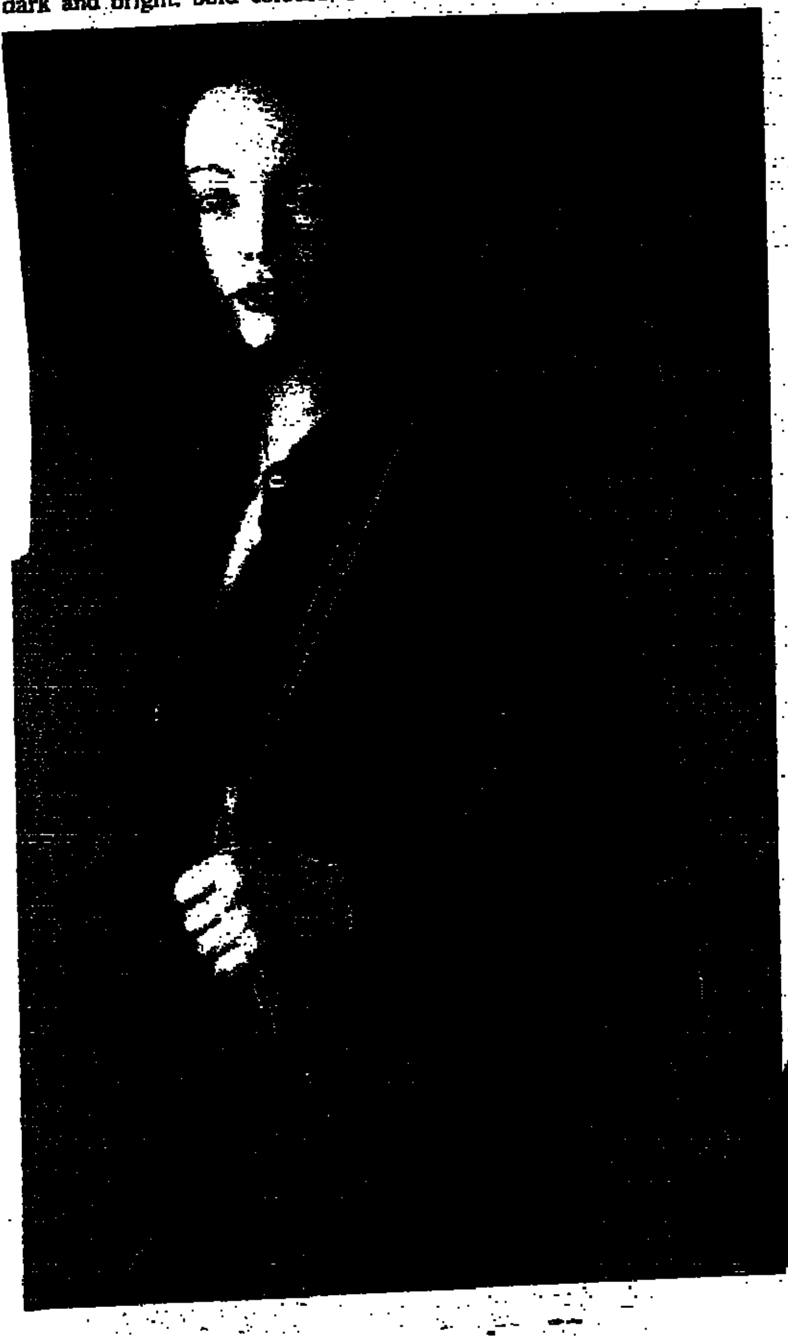
Tweed may be one of the oldest fabrics in Britain, but designers are using it in new, innovative ways. The autumn collections of Cerruti, Maxmara, Armand Basi and Vivienne Westwood all highlighted various combinations of it, adding twists, which ranged from the sleek and minimalist to the extravagant and opulent. Mainstream labels such as Oasis, Jigsaw, Next and Morgan all showed imaginative looks in deep, dark and bright, bold colours, in various styles from full, flowing coats, sharp, urban suits and slimline skirts to wide, flattering trousers.

All the designers treated the material with a light touch, creating less bulky garments with softer silhouettes — looks normally reserved for the latest high-performance wools. In addition, designers have picked up on the latest fluid tweed-effect cloths that, although they are not neccessarily authentic, are perfect for the svelte look of the moment.

Because tweed clothing was originally made for outdoor pursuits, such as grouse shooting and fishing, and for farmers who needed comfort and warmth, it is durable, resisting harsh and wet weathers. "The Scottish varieties such as Harris will last you a lifetime," Roger Sauls says, "although Irish Donegal might be nicer to wear because it is so smooth."

Because most items will last, it is worth buying styles that will not date. Simple Oxford bag pants, unfussy trouser and skirt suits and full luxurious coats are always good buys, and although the styles might not fit in with the rest of your wardrobe in two years, the styles might be the hippest thing ever in five.

It is time to forget images of Miss Jean Brodie on a country ramble. Today's tweed looks are simple and modern as well as luxurious, ideal for town or country.



ABOVE: Camel tweed suit, £270, Armand Basi, 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-278 4843). Chocolate sleeveless sweater, £49.99, Morgan branches nationwide (0171-383 2888). Classic lace-up brogues, £99.50, Russell & Bromley, selected branches nationwide (0171-629 6903)

TOP LEFT: Burgundy tweed coat, £139.99, Morgan, as before. Purple rib rollneck, £31.99, Oasis, branches nationwide (01865 881986)

BOTTOM LEFT: Dark green sweater, from a selection from £65, Ouiset, branches nationwide (0171-383 2888). Large check skirt, £34.99, Oasis, as before. Tweed and leather shoulder bag, £135 from a selection, Whistles, 12 St Christophers Place, W1 (0171-487 4484)

LEFT: Fine-knit cotton cardigan, £45; tweed A-line skirt, £78, Agnès B, 111 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-225 3477). Black leather and suede ankle boots, £178, Vivienne Westwood, 44 Conduit Street, W1 (0171-439 1109). Tweed hat, £31, Kangol, Beatties branches nationwide (0171-487 4888)

Photographs by **Richard Burns**. Hair & make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford. Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

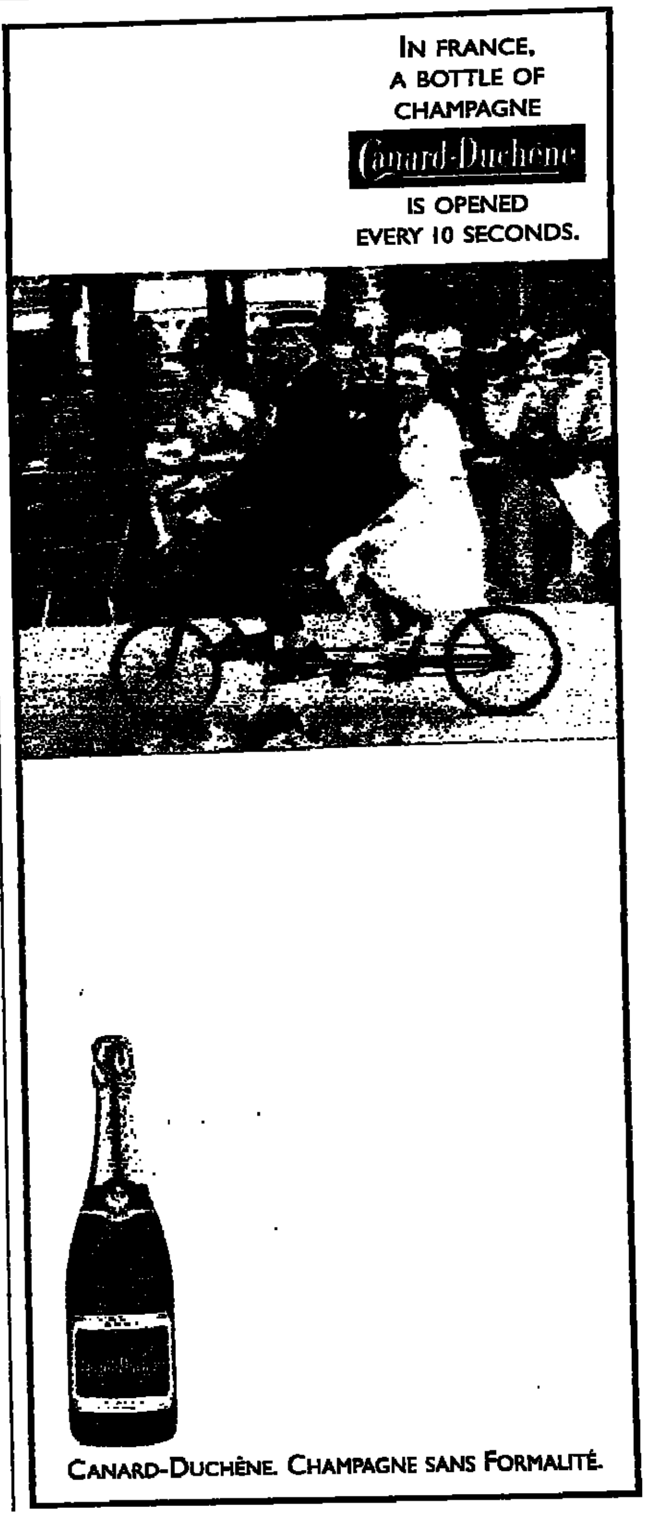
THREE OF A KIND

When the autumn air starts to nip, slip your hands into a good pair of soft leather gloves. Here are three of the best. HB

TOP LEFT: Black soft leather gloves, £35, Cornelia James, House of Fraser branches nationwide (0171-499 9423)

TOP RIGHT: Soft beige classic gloves, £39, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)

LEFT: Dark beige buckle-trim gloves, £55, Dents, Selfridges, W1 (01985 212291)



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Celebrating life's ups and Downs

ME AND MY GARDEN: DENIS HEALEY

It is almost a classic gardening partnership. He has an eye for design, for the larger picture; she for plants and how to group them. And both acknowledge each other's gifts. He says: "Edna knows all about plants. She puts them together well so that there is colour most of the time."

She says: "Denis has a good eye for design. I have just bought a white cherry. I know where I would like it to go, but I won't plant it without asking his advice."

Lord and Lady Healey have lived at Pingles Place on the Sussex Downs for many years but it is only in the last five, since Denis left the House of Commons and became Lord Healey of Riddlesden, that they have been able to concentrate on the garden.

It has exhilarating views. From the erstwhile croquet lawn — "We don't play. I always feel you have to have something nasty in your nature to play croquet" — you can see down the Cuckmere Valley to the English Channel, over the village of Alfriston to the Weald, and across the valley, where the houses of Litlington can be glimpsed among the trees. High above the valley are the chalk downs, bare and rounded, their appearance constantly changing with the light and seasons.

As gardeners know, however, views are inevitably accompanied by winds, and here the winds are salt-laden and frequently fierce. Twenty-five Scots pines were uprooted in the hurricane of 1987. Despite this, the garden is designed to make the most of the views and to fit harmoniously into the landscape. Gardening proper takes place almost in secret — in small, enclosed areas.

Nature impinges in many ways. Badgers, stoats, rabbits and herons visit, and the lawns are wide sweeps of downland turf, dense with wild flowers and patterned with curving, mown paths.

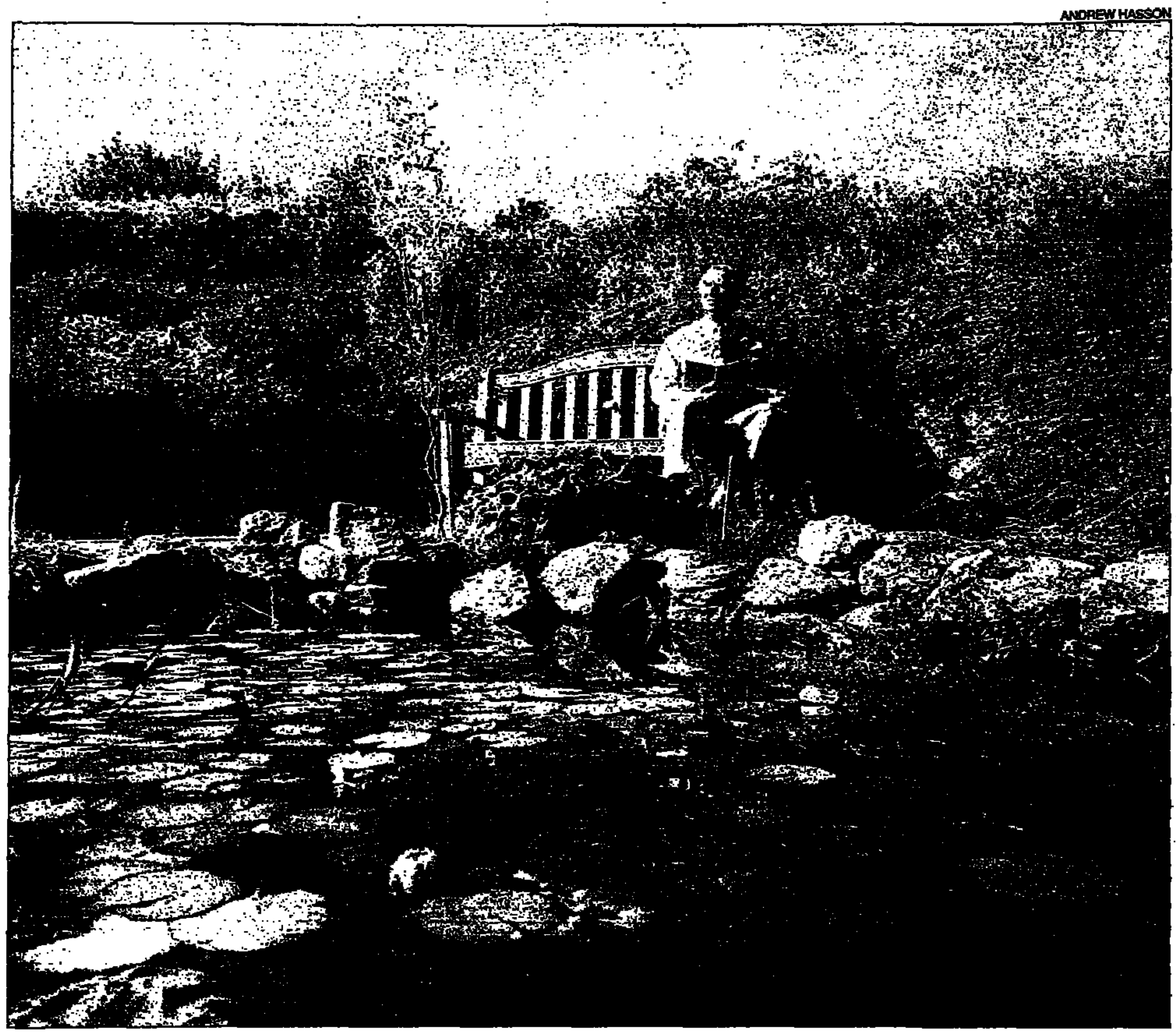
The turf was carefully saved when the banks — which came right up to the house and obstructed the views to the south — were scooped out. In earlier years, Lord Healey would give the grass its regular cut, bouncing over the slopes on a ride-on mower, loudly singing popular songs from an extensive and catholic repertoire. He celebrated his 80th birthday in August and the mowing is now done silently by a gardener.

Even after all these years, the grass still has its surprises. Lady Healey, who knows her wild flowers, says: "Last year there were dozens of Lady's Tresses [*Spiranthes spiralis*, a rare orchid] which we've never seen before. There aren't any this year. And there are milkworts. In the spring there are cowslips as well as daisies pied and violets blue."

Lord Healey's greatest pleasure in the garden is connected with its setting in the wider landscape. His favourite place is the croquet lawn and its views. While walking round the garden, his comments reflect this. "I am trying to buy that field ... I want to build a ha-ha and get rid of the wire fence ... I tried to persuade the farmer to bury that power line but he wouldn't do it." His photographer's eye is awake to intrusive details that disfigure the views.

Lady Healey prefers the more enclosed parts of the garden. Her latest project is transforming an "unpleasance" into a secret garden. A rubbish dump surrounded by a privet hedge has been cleared and planted with colourful flowers. An archway has been cut into the hedge and a seat and rustic bower installed. The area has been planted with scented plants such as sweet peas and roses. Along the north side of the garden is a small strip of trees and shrubs. Lady Healey is trying to re-create the sort of woodland path she remembers from her childhood.

At the lowest part of the garden, where the soil is deepest, is the vegetable garden. This is another enclosed "room". "I'm sure there must have been a house there where people were happy," she says. "It has such a wonderful atmosphere. It used to be all vegetables but there were far too many for us. Now we have had three-quarters of it grassed over and have planted fruit trees. We still grow vegetables. The runner beans are wonderful, and the autumn raspberries."



ANDREW HASSON

Seat of power: Denis Healey enjoys the tranquil setting of the pond, which he constructed. The area was once a rose garden

Lady Healey likes to have strips of colour here and there — "they are welcoming" — so there are bright strips of flowers near the entrance gate and in front of the house, as well as near the terrace and around the croquet lawn. She is particularly pleased with the lavatera and hollyhocks, which stand up surprisingly well to the salt winds, as do lavender and many of the daisy family, such as asters. These plants provide colour in high summer. In spring, the garden's best season, there are bluebells and daffodils, cowslips and columbines. "Apart from the wind, the other main problem in the garden is the thin chalk soil. Many things won't grow," says Lady Healey. "In our 'golden wedding' border, many of the golden roses have died. Some white roses, particularly Iceberg, are doing well, and it may turn into a white garden."

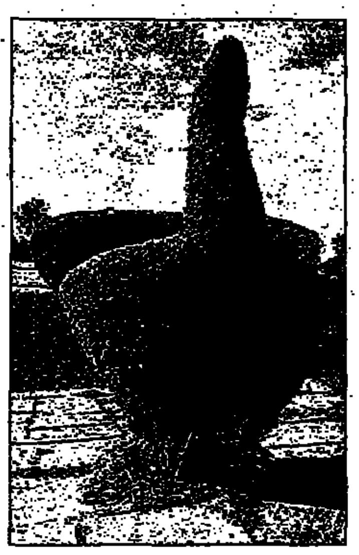
Another rose that is doing very well is the pink *R. Bonica*. There used to be a proper rose garden but this has been replaced by a pond constructed by Lord Healey. Now there are fish, waterlilies and pickerelweed, *Pontederia cordata*, but it has been the scene of several misfortunes. Once a sheep strayed into the garden, fell into the pond and died. Ornamental fish have been victims of the visiting herons. Now, wires round the edge prevent them from wading into the water.

Two strikingly formal features are refreshingly out of character with the rest of the garden, which sits comfortably in the landscape. A topiary peacock carved from a golden yew which had outgrown its position stands boldly on the terrace, echoing earlier garden traditions.

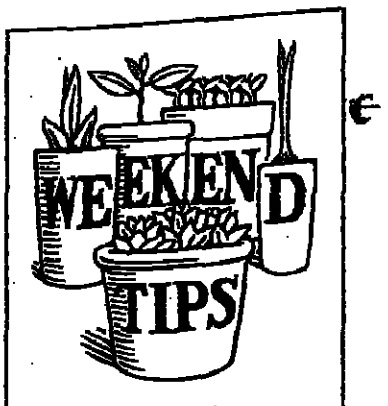
In one corner of the garden, earth removed when the banks around the house were cut away has been used to build a mount. On top, there is a bastion of fiercely clipped *Senecio greyi*, which overlooks another panoramic view, this time of Windover Hill. Rather like its owners, the garden is at ease; it looks back and out.

BARBARA ABBS

● *The Queen's House: a social history of Buckingham Palace is published this month by Michael Joseph at £25.*



Yew beauty: topiary peacock



- Lift the corms of gladioli when the leaves turn yellow, *cut off the stems*, dry the corms, rub clean, label varieties and store in a cool, mouse-free place.
- Stop damping down greenhouses. Take every opportunity in dry and sunny weather to open all the doors and let fresh air through to avoid moulds and fungal growth.
- *Continue potting* spring bulbs such as narcissi, hyacinths, *Iris reticulata* and crocuses at fortnightly intervals for a staggered indoor display.
- Old clumps of Pacific Coast irises can be divided now. All species, with the exception of *Iris douglasiana*, require an open, lime-free soil. Do not divide them smaller than groups of six to ten rhizomes.
- In dry areas, any evergreens that are to be transplanted should be soaked thoroughly a few days in advance. Newly planted or transplanted evergreens, including hedges, should be regularly watered until autumn rains start.
- In well-drained soils, onion sets for autumn planting, such as 'Unwins First Early', can be planted over the next few weeks, 5in apart and 14in between the rows.
- Begin digging over and adding manure or compost to vacant parts of the vegetable garden, and apply lime where necessary. A low pH reduces the resistance of brassicas to club root. Crop rotation and increasing the level of pH to a more alkaline pH7.5 or pH8 will much improve their chances. Add 1lb of lime to a square yard for average soils — less in areas with sandy soils, more for clays.

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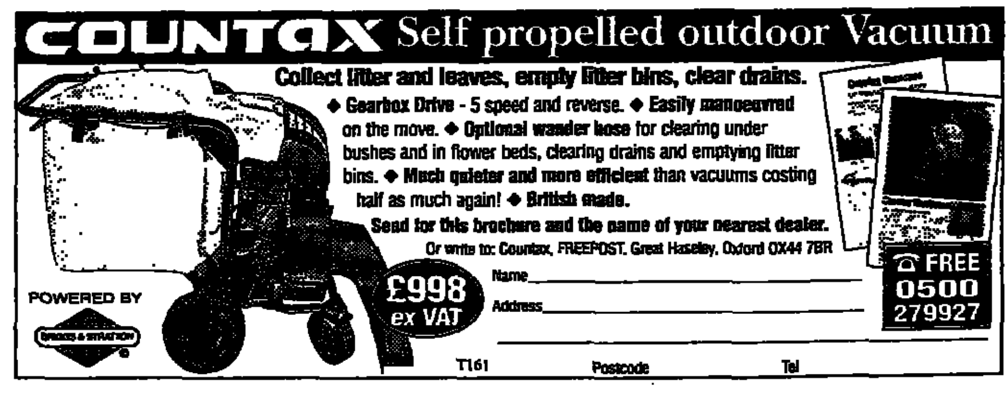
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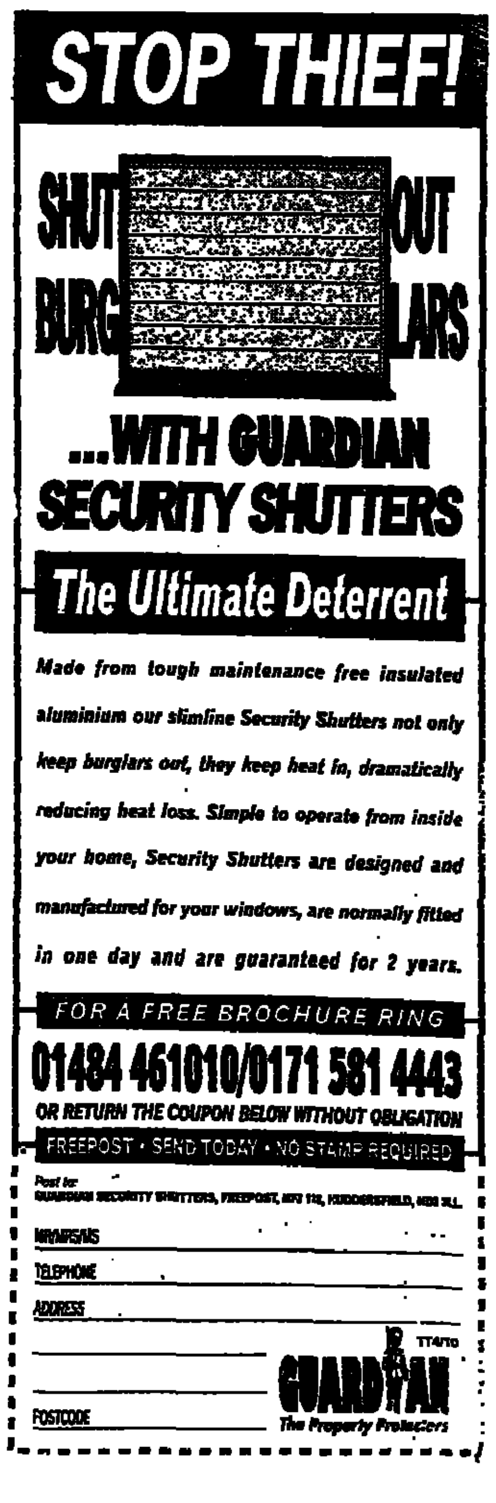
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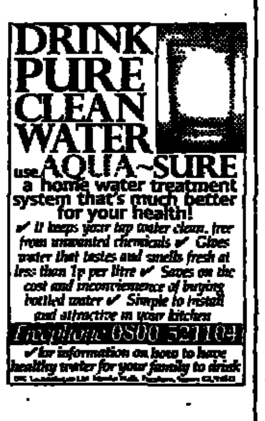
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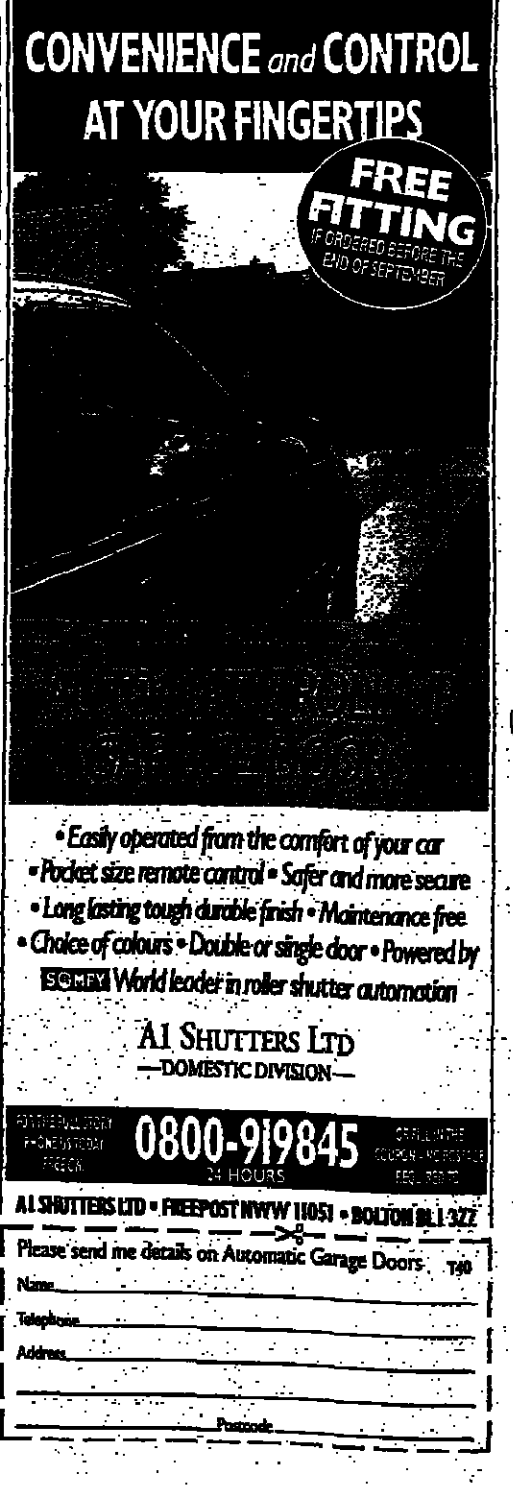
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Floral treasure from Cape Town

Nigel Colborn on the prolific pelargonium, a souvenir from Captain Cook's epic voyages

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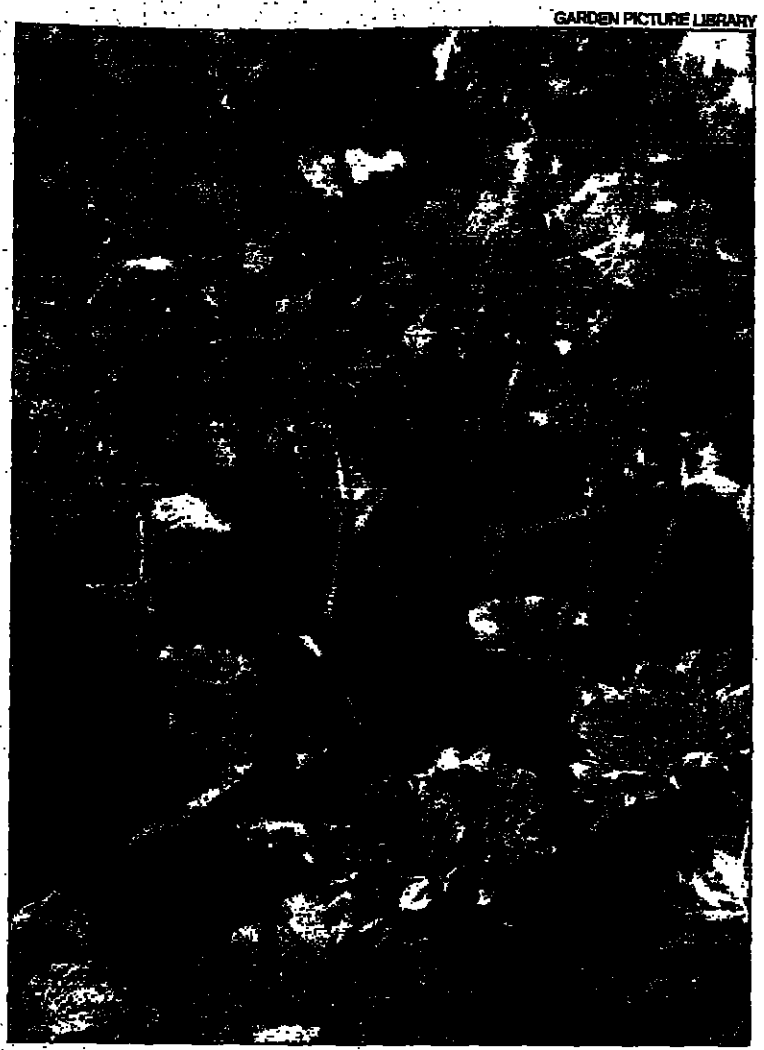


Spectacular pelargonium cucullatum double-flowers in summer

When Captain Cook docked at Cape Town on his second great voyage to the Pacific, in 1772, a couple of young men disembarked. One was Peter Thunberg, pupil of the great Swedish botanist Linnaeus; the other, a modest, unprepossessing Scot, was Francis Masson. Masson's brief was to gather plant material for the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew.

Expectations back at home were high. Cook's first voyage to Australia, in the company of Joseph Banks, had promised a rich haul of new plant treasures from the southern hemisphere, but no one had anticipated the staggering diversity of what is now recognised as the world's richest plant kingdom — southern Africa.

Masson's more notable introductions include the graceful bird of paradise flower, *Strelitzia reginae*, named in honour of the Queen, whose family name was Mecklenberg-Strelitz, and the white arum, *Zantedeschia aethiopica* — a weed in the Cape that clogs up watercourses.

Besides these flower-shop aristocrats, he collected members of a plant family now so universally grown that one hardly gives a thought to their origins — the pelargoniums.

Masson discovered 50 species of pelargonium on his travels in the Cape. Of these, about a dozen have been hybridised and selected to develop the wide diversity of flower colours, scents, shapes, sizes and habits in today's cultivars and garden forms.

The current *Plant Finder* entry runs to 20 pages, with an average of 60 varieties per page. Even allowing for duff varieties, and those obscure species of interest only to collectors, there is a wide choice of excellent pelargoniums for garden, greenhouse, container or windowsill.

And since gardeners are being penalised these days for being profligate with water — though car wash owners are not — the genus is a model of political correctness, surviving on minimal water, doing the bulk of its growing during wet times, but flowering best when the weather turns hot and dry.

And almost every one is wrongly called a geranium. Why? Because originally, the first introductions were dubbed geranium — a genus already represented in Europe by such plants as meadow *crane's-bill*, *geranium pratense* and the rank-smelling herb Robert *G robertianum*.

The actual difference is not difficult to spot. Geraniums *(crane's-bills)* have symmetrical flowers — that is, all their petals are of equal size. Those of pelargoniums have symmetry, but their petals are of different sizes.

The first species was introduced to Europe in the 17th century and the first successful hybridisation, between *P zonale* and *P inquinans* took place in France, at the Crampel Nursery nearly 60 years before Masson's expedition. This was the basis for an ever-expanding range of what came to be called the "zonal pelargoniums".

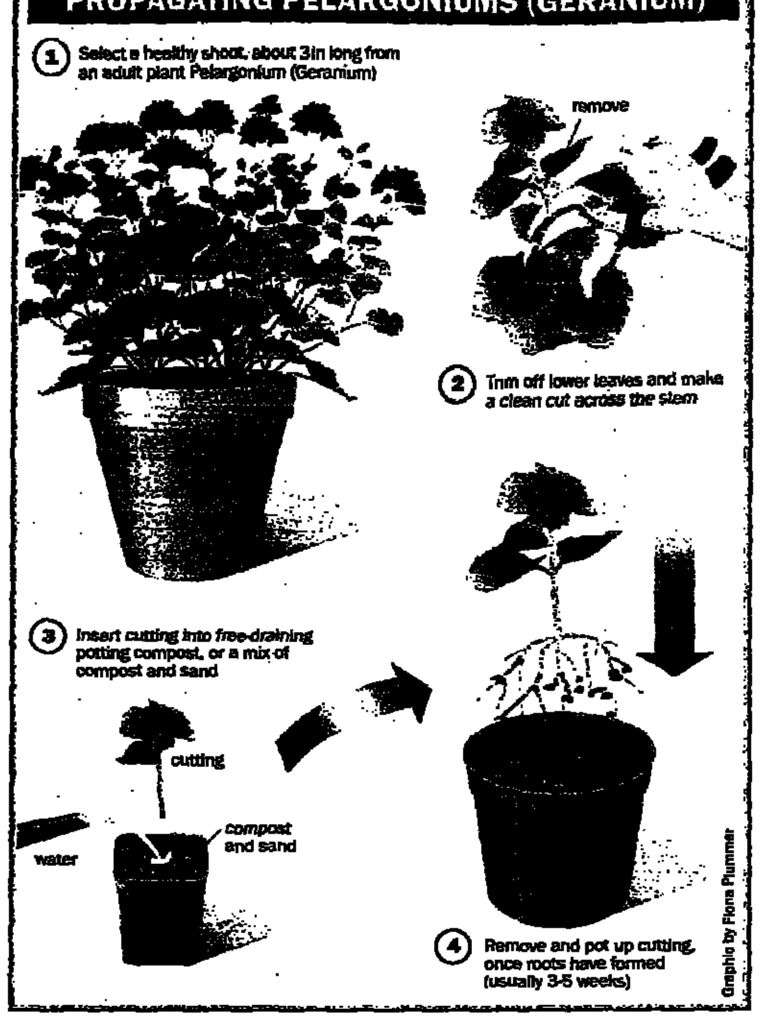
In many, the rounded leaves are zoned in different hues — a feature that has been exploited to produce such brightly coloured hybrids as 'Turkish Delight', whose leaves are salmon, gold and brown, but which, even in varieties with quieter foliage, adds character. In 'Deacon Lilac Mist' for example, the shell-pink flowers are set off all the better by the leaves, each of which carries a broad dusky zone.

Purists might prefer their plants to resemble A.A. Milne's *Dormouse* poem — "Geraniums red and Delphiniums blue" — but even the most traditional red zonals come in a wide variety that includes single, semi-double and fully double flowers.

There are seed-raised series nowadays too, easy to grow and promising excellent vigour and a greater number of flowers per plant than on older varieties raised from cuttings.

An exciting experience for me was to wander in Masson's footsteps and to discover his pelargoniums growing wild. In the mountains near Cape Town, known as the Hottentots Holland, great bushes dotted the hillsides that ran down to the sea. This was *Pelargonium cucculatum*, forerunner of the handsome 'Regals', and far more beautiful than anything bred since.

PROPAGATING PELARGONIUMS (GERANIUM)


① Select a healthy shoot, about 3in long from an adult plant Pelargonium (Geranium)
remove
② Trim off lower leaves and make a clean cut across the stem
③ Insert cutting into free-draining potting compost, or a mix of compost and sand
cutting
water
compost and sand
④ Remove and pot up cutting, once roots have formed (usually 3-5 weeks)
Graphic by Fiona Plummer

The ivy-leaf kinds, which trail, are raised from two wild species, *P Peltatum* and *P lateripes*, which scramble over the ground, and sometimes through shrubs in the Cape. These have undergone much breeding and selection, but one of the oldest is 'L'Elegante', which has cream-edged leaves and pale lilac flowers. Dating back more than a century, it is still one of the finest varieties.

Nowadays there are kinds such as 'Crocodile' with strange gold netting on the leaf; others, like 'Rouletta', have two-tone cerise and white blossoms. There are even dwarf varieties such as 'Sugar Baby', which hardly grows at all. For container use, especially in exposed sites, the best to select are those with the least fragile stems and with the most bloom. Single flowers, such as on 'L'Elegante' or the 'Mum Cascade' series, may not last quite so long as the doubles but they fare better in wet seasons, since the petals fall off, rather than sticking together, turning brown and, ultimately, mouldy.

Scented leaf pelargoniums come in almost as varied a range as the more decorative kinds. Apart from the cottage windowsill favourite *P graveolens*, which smells of lemon, there are aromas which include mint, hints of apple, spicy mixtures of cinnamon and basil, musk, orange and even blackcurrant.

Many are strikingly beautiful, with finely cut foliage — sometimes even filigree — or with huge felty leaves in soft colours. There was an RHS trial of more than 170 scented pelargoniums at Wisley last year and the task of bruising the foliage and then breathing in the different fragrances was one of the most sensually gorgeous experiences I've ever had — well, at Wisley anyway!

● *Pelargoniums will not survive frost, so this weekend is the last chance for taking cuttings to overwinter indoors and plant out next spring. Once rooted, keep pinching back young shoots to encourage bushy growth.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q For years I have planted winter aconites but not one has developed. What is the secret of growing this lovely yellow flower?
— Mrs R. King, Southampton.

A Aconites are not bulbs but rhizomes, fattened storage roots designed to store energy through a cooler summer. So being out of the ground and dry for weeks on end, and in the wind and sun on a market stall or in the dry heat of a garden centre, is *not* helpful. It can be fatal.

If you buy aconites (or anemones) as dry roots, soak them in cold water for a couple of hours before you plant. The best way to establish aconites is in spring, "in the green". Scrounge a small-rooted clump from someone who has plenty, while it is still in full leaf or flower, and plant it in dappled shade, in bare soil or thin grass.

Water it in, and the plant will soon recover from the move, and will set seed in situ. Even next year you should start to see seedlings around it.

Q I have a 15ft elm in my garden, which is suckering and apparently healthy. It seems to have recovered from Dutch elm disease. Is it of interest to anyone, as my garden is too small for it?
— G. Clarke, Thame, Oxon.

A It would be nice to think you were right, and that the plant had developed immunity to the disease. However, 15ft is just about the size at which suckers from elm trees previously hit by the disease are reinfected. You would have to wait a few more years to be sure that it has even promise of immunity. I would have the tree out.

Q Last week I bought a variegated plant *Kalimeris yomena* "Shogun" from a local WI market. I cannot find it in any of my encyclopaedias, and wonder if I should be looking under a different name?
— Mrs P. Ashman, Wimborne, Dorset.

A This is not a common plant, although correctly named. It is a late season, sun-loving daisy, with lilac flowers, growing to about 18-24in. *Kalimeris yomena "Variegata"* is the same plant, according to *The Plant Finder*.

Q I have a large clump of Hosta 'Golden Prayers' that stays bright yellow all summer and lights up a dark corner. Six weeks ago I divided it into small pieces and potted them up for use as a large feature interspersed with spring bulbs under a tree. Should I plant them out where they are to grow after the first frosts?
— Mrs G. Stephen, Claygate, Surrey.

A Wait until the frosts and plant then. Enrich the soil with old compost when the coleus come out, and put your hostas straight in. They will be better there in the ground during the coldest winter weather than sitting frozen solid in a shed.

If there is still a lot of peaty compost around the young potted plants, which has not yet been filled with root, knock it off when you plant, so that the young plants do not sit on a bed of wet peat all winter.

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A VET WRITES

Q **What do I need to do to become a vet? I am ten years old. I know it's a long way ahead, but could you give me any information that would help?**

A Six universities have veterinary schools: Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Liverpool. They are five-year courses (six at Cambridge), and students spend at least six months in veterinary practice before qualifying. Good GCSEs, and two As and a B at A level, are the minimum needed, as well as an obvious interest in and *understanding of animals*, based on care and compassion, rather than gooey sentimentality. Keep whatever pets you can, and don't rely on mum to help out. When you are older, get holiday jobs in kennels, stables and stockfarms. For a free leaflet, *A Career as a Veterinary Surgeon*, send a SAE to: The Royal College of Veterinary *Surgeons, 62-64 Horseferry* Road, London SW1P 2AF.

Q **Bess, our 11-year-old cocker spaniel, has developed a lump in her udder. The vet calls it a mammary tumour and doesn't think it's malignant but does advise an operation. I'm worried about the risk. What if she died under the anaesthetic? Would it be better to leave well alone?**

A Bess has an excellent chance of living for at least three more years. In that time, the tumour may grow and become a burden to her. And it could develop malignant properties. There is an anaesthetic risk, but we do not run our lives on remote possibilities. Bess will be better off and enjoy life more when she isn't carrying a heavy lump down below.

Q **Eight goldfish have lived in our garden pond since last May and nearly doubled in size in five months. But I'm worried we will have a really cold winter, which must be due. Any suggestions?**

A If the pond is less than 2ft deep, it could freeze solid in a prolonged cold spell. If there's a deeper area — down to 3ft — the fish will survive in a state of near-suspended animation until the world warms up. Electrical pond heaters will keep the worst of the frost away, but make sure the wiring and transformers are adequate. Float a plastic football in the pond to keep one area ice-free.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Send queries to* The Times *Vet, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*

ADOPT ME

Rocky: needs understanding

ROCKY, a handsome black-and-tan two-year-old Airedale cross-German Shepherd dog, has been at the rescue centre for more than a year. He is loving and energetic but suffers from an eating disorder. The NCDL are, however, prepared to meet all veterinary costs.

If you can offer Rocky a suitable home please contact the NCDL Rescue Centre, Hazeldene, Ilfracombe, Devon (01271 812709).

When a beloved animal goes astray there is only one person to call: the pet detective. **Carol Price** reports

Lost dog? Call in the retrievers

Carol Burn and Elizabeth Quinn will never forget the day this summer when their car was stolen from a supermarket car park in Staffordshire. Their dogs — a seven-year-old shih-tzu bitch called Misty and a three-year-old Yorkshire terrier, Toby — were in the car and they vanished, too.

Nothing has been heard of them since. Miss Burn says: "We only left them in the car because it was a cool day. Since they went we've hardly eaten or slept. We've been on local radio, put up posters, and tried every rescue centre we could think of. Losing a pet has to be one of the most sickening experiences of your life."

> 'Losing a pet must be one of the most sickening events in your life'

But Miss Burn is by no means alone in her plight. Every year in this country tens of thousands of pets — mainly dogs, cats and birds — go missing, leaving owners in immeasurable distress. "For most people, not knowing what happened to their pet is worse than having it die," says Jan Steele, a volunteer for Petsearch, a national register for lost and found animals. "And you would not believe how many pets, every day, seem to vanish into thin air.

"Recently I heard of a retriever which disappeared from its garden at 10pm, a Siamese cat which vanished soon after moving home and a pointer which was lured into a van and driven off while walking ahead of its owners on a beach."

Petsearch has a computerised databank of missing and found animals nationwide, compiled with the police, dog wardens, rescue centres and the public.

The Detect-a-Pet service was started by Dale Fraser earlier this year after she lost her own dog in Scotland, "albeit only temporarily". Miss Fraser says the service has to work nationally "because animals can end up far from where they disappeared. We've had cats go on long rides in cars or removal vans, and in hot weather people forget to close their windows and cockatiels take off. Microchipping birds makes them much easier to trace."

Tony Brenton, of the National Canine Defence League, says: "A growing number of dogs are being stolen from gardens, outside shops, from cars and even rescue centres. Our suspicions are that breeds like lurchers are being sought for poaching and Staffordshire bull terriers could be used for illegal fighting, or even as practice dogs for other fighters. Other pedigree dogs might just be taken to breed from. Owners should be vigilant."

Jan Steele has also heard of stolen pedigree dogs being sold in pubs for a fraction of their value. She says: "One woman had to buy her own Sheltie back from a boy who had acquired it in this way."

Such tales may chill the blood, but Tony Brenton says that the most common reason for dogs disappearing is that they simply wander off, perhaps after a bitch, and then forget their way home or got picked up by a dog warden, which is why identifying dogs — with collar discs, *microchips or even ear tattoos —* is so important."

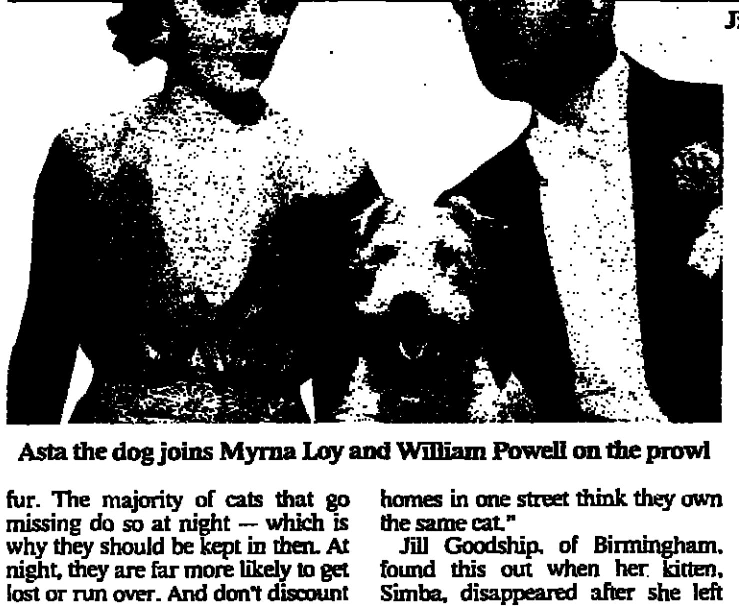
Vicky Brown, of the Cats Protection League, says: "It's an urban myth that cats are stolen for their fur. The majority of cats that go missing do so at night — which is why they should be kept in then. At night, they are far more likely to get lost or run over. And don't discount *the possibility that your cat has just* moved to another home. People hate to think that their cat didn't consider their home good enough, but it happens all the time. Often two homes in one street think they own the same cat."

Jill Goodship, of Birmingham, found this out when her kitten, Simba, disappeared after she left *him with neighbours* to go on holiday. Mrs Goodship entered Simba's details on the local Petsearch register and discovered that he had happily ensconced himself in a new home five minutes away from his old one. "They'd already bought him toys and a bowl, so it was hard to take him away. But I can't thank these people enough for reporting him found to Petsearch. If they hadn't, I would never have known what had happened to him."

Carol Burn says that she and Elizabeth Quinn will never give up searching for their dogs. And even after many months, hope may not be lost. Dale Fraser says: "I heard of a man whose dog had been missing for nine months. He despaired of ever finding him and went to a rescue centre to get another. And there, sitting in a kennel, was the dog he'd lost."

ROLAND GRANT ARCHIVE

Jim Carrey retrieves one pet too many in *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*



Asta the dog joins Myrna Loy and William Powell on the prowl

LOOKING FOR YOUR PET

- **Petsearch: Call 01225 705175 to find your nearest branch. The service is free.**
- **National Canine Defence League: 0171-837 0006**
- **Detect-a-Pet: 01628 525485. A £10 charge to enter missing details.**
- **Cats Protection League: 01403 221900 for nearest branch keeping lost-and-found details.**
- **National Strays Bureau (dogs only, within *the Southeast and East Anglia. Lost reports:* 0897 123999 (calls £1.50 a minute). Found reports: 0990 168220 (national rate).**
- **Vets can advise on microchipping. Details of nearest ear-tattooing centre: 01206 397510.**

Sleuths on the scent: *Turner & Hooch*

Benefits of a Polly-gone policy

Animal insurance is growing in popularity as pet owners feather their nests and take out protection

Fans of Monty Python "dead parrot" jokes will find rich pickings in Stafford next weekend. More than 6,000 parrot-owners are due at the county showgrounds for that great annual shindig, the Parrot Society Show, where birds worth up to £8,000 will be admired as much for their multicoloured beauty as much as for their verbal ability to respond to Norwegian Blue jokes.

With so many birds about, there are also rich pickings for pet-insurance salesmen, who will do their utmost to persuade owners that their precious birds will be healthier, and their own investment better protected, if they are insured against loss, veterinary bills, theft and accidents.

Fire, particularly, poses a significant threat to owners of large exotic bird collections. Tim Sangster, who runs Exotic Direct, deals with one owner who has 500 parrots — a substantial investment when even "common" species such as the African Grey are worth £500 or more.

Pet insurance is a growing business in Britain. Cats, dogs, rabbits, horses, birds — all require regular visits to the vet, but only about one in ten owners bother with insurance. At £25 or more to cover a parrot against illness, theft and death through accident, plus an excess of £25 or more per claim, this is not surprising. Most people take insurance to cover vets' fees and to protect against injury caused to others — third-party liability, in other words.

Some policies cover the cost of cancelling your holiday in the event that your pet requires emergency surgery. Others pay for advertising for a missing pet, and a reward if it is recovered.

HOW MUCH TO INSURE MY...

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Saga Services, which targets the over-50s, has dreamt up something called Burglar Reward, which will pay up to £750 if your dog stops a burglar from running off with the family silver. Basic annual cover for a dog costs £65.32, rising to £93.03. For a cat, premiums range from £35.63 to £55.42.

The higher premium covers accidental damage caused if the animal runs amok in your home. Petplan, the biggest pet insurer, has also recently launched Rabbit Plan, providing up to £2,000 of veterinary care a year.

More than two million rabbits are kept as pets in the UK, providing vets with their most regular source of business after cats and dogs. With the treatment of a tooth abscess costing more than £100 — and twice as much for a broken leg — cover can be useful. Steve Parrot, of Stoneways Insurance in Godalming, Surrey, says owners should be wary of "add-ons". *Holiday cancellation* cover, for instance, might require the unfortunate pet to be physically on the operating table — or nothing doing.

Parrot says: "You should be buying insurance to cover a loss you can't afford. Some might take the view that they can afford £300 to £400 in vets' fees. However, one road accident can cost you £2,000."

Golden Valley Insurance, based in Pontrilas, Herefordshire, is the UK's longest-established bird insurer.

Policies protect against a curious range of possibilities, including theft, storms, lightning, explosion, riot, falling trees and attack by vermin. Owners of birds of prey can buy up to £1 million in indemnity cover to guard against their osprey going berserk at the country fair.

Golden Valley's owner, Sharron O'Gorman, says fraudulent claims pose a big problem for bird insurers. One case involved a claim on a bird that was proved to have been dead at the time the insurance was taken out.

Another involved a "stolen" falcon later found in a property *belonging to a friend of the* policyholder. DNA testing proved that it was the same bird. There was the case of the bird, insured for £15,000, which was sent for an autopsy following its untimely death. The underwriter proclaimed: "If I'm going to pay out £15,000 on this bird, I'm going *to have it back, get it stuffed* and put it on my desk."

The laboratory reported that they had not received the bird as such — what they did get looked like the insides of a chicken. The underwriter never got his trophy.

Exotic Direct specialises in offbeat tastes, and insures everything from iguanas and tortoises to zoo animals including elephants and gorillas.

Insuring a rhinoceros costs about £700 a year. A pair of albino boa constrictors might cost £600 a year to insure, but are probably worth about £8,000 between them. Killer whales in captivity in America have a price tag of $1 million each, and are the most expensive animals to insure.

Insurers dream of the day when every pet owner will have succumbed to their advances. The market has been growing at 20 per cent a year for the past five years, yet 90 per cent of the UK's 14 million cats and dogs remain uninsured. Petplan and its competitors have plenty to fight over.

JON ASHWORTH

● *Petplan 0800 282009; Exotic Direct 01444 482946; Stoneways 01483 426966; Golden Valley 01981 240536; Saga Services 0800 997766*

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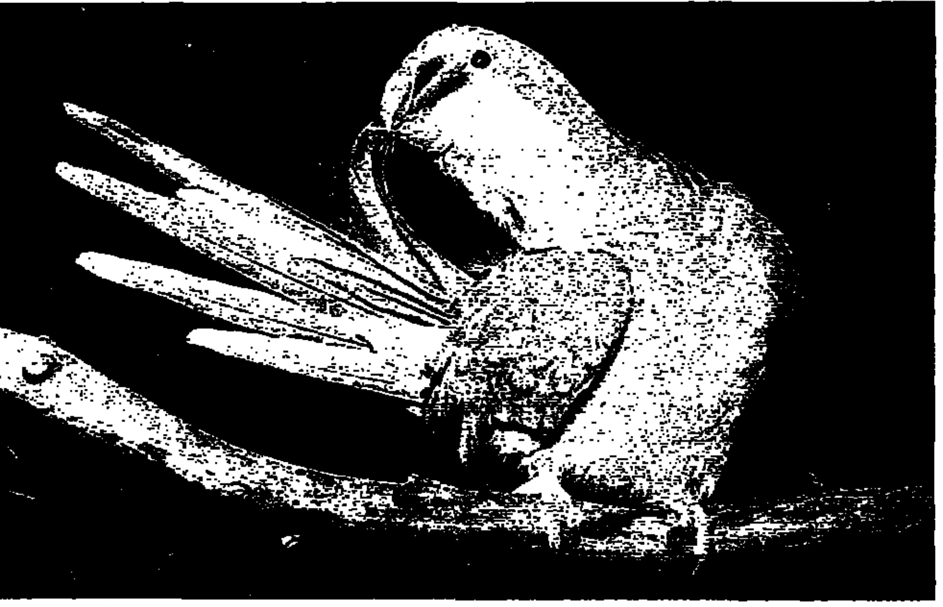

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هكذا من الأصل

You've laid in the roquefort and raspberries; he says he has to see a man about his drains. The weekend could only get better . . .

Mr Perhaps-He'll-Do-After-All?

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

Well, he didn't show up for the weekend after all, Mr Possibly-Not-Quite-So-Right-As-I'd-Thought. I'd just got back from rounding up a trolley-load of all the most exotic delicacies that Sainsbury's can offer when the telephone rang. It was him. "Look, darling," he said, "the thing *is*, I am frightfully sorry, but I've got to see an Urgent Man. About the drains. And this afternoon is the only time *he can make it*. What a shame. Never mind. We'll do it another time, shall we? Promise?"

Oh *drains*, I *said*, as nicely as I could manage (which was a good deal nicelier than he deserved, I must say). *Tell* me about them. Well, yes, I can quite see that if you have got an Urgent Man and this is the only time he can come, then come he must.

"Well *done*, sweetheart," said Mr Not-Quite-Right. "Good girl. See you *very soon*, eh? Pip-pip."

Hmm, I thought, sitting surrounded by my rustling carrier bags of roquefort and olive ciabatta and tapenade and fillet steak and château-bottled médoc and double cream and raspberries. Well, the good things about this are: a) Mr NQR will not now be seeing me in the grip of That Awful Cold Everybody's Got. Without make-up (and I think we must assume that at some point in the weekend he would inevitably have caught a glimpse of me without make-up) what I look like at the moment is some rhubarb that the gardener forgot to take the bucket off — all livid pale-green complexion and rose madder nose and eyelids. Oh, and b) I am now free to nip up to Peter Jones and buy a seven-inch zip — a little task that has been on my list of things to do for about six months.

All the same, it *has to be admitted* that not being seen looking ghastly and an outing to buy a replacement trouser zip *do not, by themselves, add up to what* you might call a memorable weekend. Something else is needed. I am beginning *to feel a bit sorry for myself*, when the telephone rings.

It is Lucy, Alexander's senior god*mother, a woman whom I appointed to* the post especially because of her indomitable manner (she was a fearless huntress when very young) and Bohemian *Tendencies*.

Since I am in bed by ten every night, and so pathetically terrified of doing a Christopher Reeve and leaving Alexander a motherless orphan that these days I hardly dare look a horse in the eye, I *hope that the child* will grow up to take after her rather than me. "*So, is he there?*" she hisses.

"Nah," I say, "he blew me out. Had to see a *man about some drains.*"

"Good," says Lucy, who is nothing like as captivated as I am by the charm of Mr NQR, "then you can come to the 20th Century British Art Fair with me."

"No I can't," I whined, tears of self-pity starting to fall. "My face is green and my eyes are red and I hurt all over and I am not a well girl. I think I should go to bed and stay there."

"Rubbish," said Lucy, who doesn't believe in illness and once made them pull her riding boot off her broken ankle on *the grounds that* there was no need to spoil a perfectly good boot by cutting it. "I'll see you outside the Royal College of Art in an hour. Be there."

Because I am so used to barking orders myself, this kind of firm line works a treat with me. I stopped snivelling, got up to Peter Jones *in record time*, bought my zip and (hitting my stride) a quantity of black lace and a child's school uniform jumper which I am planning to pass off as Prada, and was kicking my heels in the sunshine *outside the Royal College* of Art when who should come along but Mr Will Self, the notorious novelist, all done up in a smart suit, with his hair nicely brushed, an angelic blond moppet (one girl, one boy) holding tight to either hand, and a huge Trotters bag on his arm.

So I was goggling at this sight — possibly the first time I have ever clapped eyes on a live novelist in the actual flesh — *when I became aware* of ahallooing in the background. It was Lucy.

She *listened with interest to my story* of having found a conker in the entrance hall of Peter Jones ("fancy that"), *steered me round the exhibition* at a furious rate, pointing out line, and tone, and perspective, and colour-handling *and all sorts of other things of* which I have until now passed my life in darkest ignorance, allowing no more than one brief stop for tea and a long, admiring pause before a wooden sculpture of an owl which, if I had had £6,500 about me at the time, I should certainly have taken home.

Then we went off to her club where we sat in the garden and drank gin as the *darkness fell and dismembered the* personality of Mr Definitely-Won't-Do.

"What will happen now," said Lucy, "is that you will go home and find a message from him on the answering machine. And what are you going to do?"

"Not ring him back," I said obediently.

"That's my girl," said Lucy, helping me up and pointing me in the direction of the station, where I caught the last train home — a thing I have not done since before Alexander was born. Like travelling in a Breughel painting it was, with a fearsome pair of British Transport *police at the end of the carriage to keep us* all in order.

So I managed to open the front door, *eventually*, and — fancy that — the little red eye of the answering machine was blinking. "Darling," said the dark chocolate voice of *Mr Oh-Well-Perhaps-He'll-*Do-After-All, "good news: my man has cancelled. I'm on my way . . ."

Feed them books, not cod-liver oil

The start of Children's Book Week is viewed with mixed feelings by the author

Terence Blacker

The charm offensive known as Children's Book Week provides moments of both encouragement and deep frustration for those of us who write fiction for children.

On the one hand, we are reminded by our readers that, *in spite of rival attractions*, over-publishing, and the under-funding of libraries, *children are still enthusiastic* about books and reading. On the other hand, the adult world seems to conspire against us, combining a lack of practical information about new books with an air of moral panic and literary snobbery that can only confuse and discourage parents.

What is it about children's books that causes so much anxiety in this country? Why is it that any news story con*nected to the subject* is invariably negative and hysterical? Such rows have become regular media events and tend to follow the same pattern.

For example, a prize is awarded to a new book dealing with a subject deemed controversial (such as this year's Carnegie prizewinner, *Junk* by Melvin Burgess, a novel for teenagers dealing with the drug culture). Then a library service is said to be exercising politically correct censorship. Finally, the end of innocence is announced and the name of Enid Blyton is invoked.

Meanwhile, in spite of the ritual wails of anguish about standards of literacy that issue from politicians and opinion mongers, information about what books parents should buy or avoid is, thanks to uniquely the British snobbery of the reviewing establishment towards children's literature, *difficult to find*.

Newspaper reviews, with one or two exceptions, tend to appear in biannual binges, as if the only time parents thought about buying books for children was before the summer holidays or at Christmas, and are often patronising. The three main literary magazines, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Literary Review* and *The London Review of Books*, while considering all sorts of tat for adults, ignore fiction for children entirely.

Yet parents need guidance more than ever. While there are now some superb writers for children — Philip Pullman, Anne Fine, Jacqueline Wilson, Gillian Cross and Lesley Howarth among others — there is also an alarming amount of rubbish being released. *Each year more than* 8,000 children's books are published in Britain. Is it any wonder that beleaguered parents, faced with too many books and helped hardly at all by reviewers, turn to books that pleased them as children? Unfortunately, while *The Secret Garden* or *The Wind in the Willows* may suit some readers, they will bore others and may have the disastrous effect of associating the reading of books with the dead hand of self-improvement — a sort of literary cod-liver oil.

Reading is entertainment. Why is this *simple assumption* regarded as contentious when applied to children? *Do we frown on adults* who take a trashy modern novel on holiday rather than George Eliot or Dostoevsky? The fear that a jolly, undemanding series will turn a child into a bad, lazy reader is demonstrably untrue — many enthusiastic and serious readers in their late teens have reached Margaret Atwood, John Updike or Jeanette Winterson via *The Babysitters Club* or *Point Horror*.

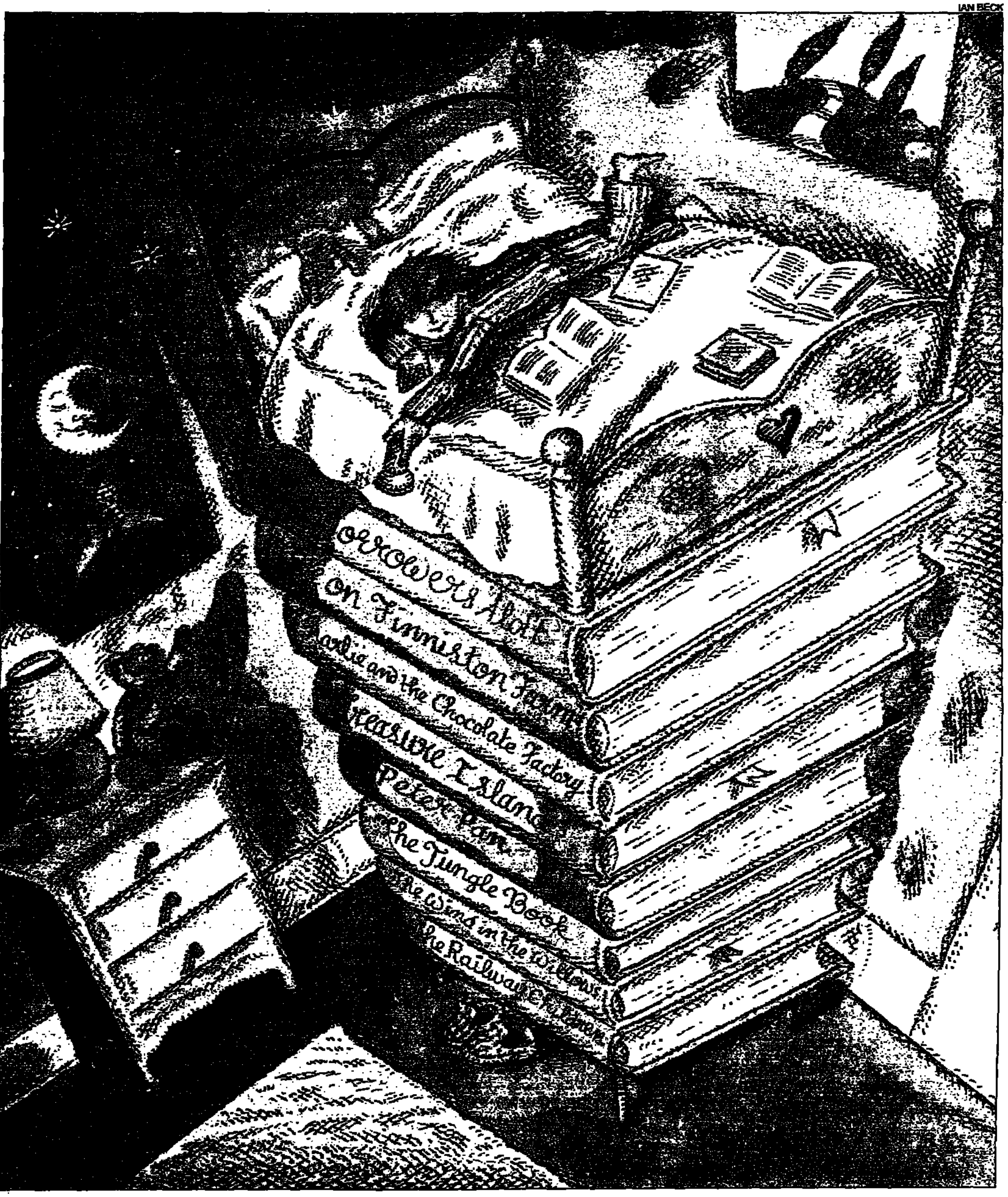
What of the danger of corruption? Compared to magazines or television, the *ability of books to upset and to* harm is negligible. Children are sensible about stories *which make them feel uncom*fortable — they simply stop reading them.

On the other hand, books do have a powerful capacity to help children make sense of *the world. The most sensible* comment made during the row surrounding *Junk* was by a *15-year-old girl* who was asked on Radio 4's *The World at One* why she wanted to *read a story about teenagers* on drugs. She said that while pop stars said there was nothing much wrong with drugs and the newspapers said there was everything *wrong with them, this was a* novel which told the story and let her make up her mind for herself.

Like most children's book writers, I have experienced a skirmish with the great army of sanitisers — a teacher in Scotland wrote and complained at some length that my book *Homebird*, a story for ten-year-olds upwards about a boy who runs away from home and ends up in a squat, was "an inappropriate text" for the children she taught, presumably on the grounds that *children's fiction should* not touch on life's grittier realities. There followed some letters from a class of children — same age, same area — who had clearly enjoyed the book. Adult disapproval, childish enthusiasm: I know which *matters more to me*.

● *Terence Blacker is the author of* Homebird, Ms Wizz *and the* Hotshots *series (all published by Macmillan).*

IAN BECK



Encourage the reading habit

1. *Let them go at their own* pace.
2. Go on reading aloud for *as long as they will listen. It is* the easiest way into the world of the imagination.
3. Any book *is better than* no book at all (that said, most books written to tie in with films or TV series are trash).
4. Visit libraries. New authors can be discovered free of charge.
5. Give them, say, £5 a month to be spent on books. Advise but do not censor.

Books will always fire children's imaginations

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

■ National Children's Book Week runs from October 6-12. Check libraries and bookshops for local activities.

■ For help in finding your way through the jungle of new books try the following publications: *Waterstone's Guide to Children's Books* (£1.99); *In Brief*, reviews by children in Newcastle upon Tyne for older readers, also available from most branches of Waterstone's. The monthly magazine *Books for Keeps* contains useful reviews and features.

GOOD OR BAD SHOULD THEY BE CENSORED?

Nigel Planer, writer and actor:
"My son Stanley is nine and his number one books are the *Goosebumps* series. *They are not well written but I don't* complain about them. They are currency in the playground. I try and *introduce him to better writing* by reading to him — we've just done Jamie Rix's *Gruesome Tales*, brilliant scary stuff. I wouldn't control *what he* reads. I hope he trusts me enough to talk to me about anything he finds disturbing."

Lady Olga Maitland, former Conservative MP and author of the policy paper *Faith in the Family* published this week:
"There is loads of politically correct rubbish that promotes lifestyles like gay relationships, outside the traditional *family unit. We should* try to get children to appreciate what to aspire to, even if they are not growing up in a *traditional* family.

"The most enduring of children's writers is Enid Blyton. Instead of banning her books from the shelves, left-wing teachers should be asking why her books are so popular. They promote good versus evil, initiative, good behaviour and manners, politeness, adventure — *all positive values*."

Antonia Riviere has sons Dan and Tom, 14, and Simon, 11:
"All the boys read avidly. We don't have a television or a computer, so that might help. I still read to them at night, though I'm finding it difficult to find books to suit all of them — the older ones are quite adult now. P.G. Wodehouse has been successful for bridging the gap. *Books give many different perspectives* on the world, you can take them at your own pace and share your experiences. I *would never ban any book, though I'm* glad they are not obsessed with *Goosebumps*. That's bad literature."

Babette Cole, author of *Dr Dog*, and *Mummy Laid an Egg*, publishes her latest book, *Two of Everything*, this week (Jonathan Cape, £9.99). It is a jolly romp through the subject of *divorce*:
"If you can't laugh at the world you might as well be dead. I write the books for myself, and it's up to parents to decide when children are ready to read them. I am telling kids that they are not alone. The two children involved, Paula and Demetrius, call a meeting at school and find they are all in the same boat."

Some of the nine and ten-year-olds from Coalway Junior School, Gloucestershire, chosen as judges in last year's *Smarties Children's Book Prize*:
"Books should have a mark to show what age they are suitable for, like they *do with videos," says Scott Sargeant.*

"I read because it's fun," says Nicola Childs.

"*Moving around a lot has messed me* around with my reading. I enjoy it but it's quite hard. I need someone to sit *with me," says Nicky Papps.*

Nick Seaton, chairman of Campaign for *Real Education*:
"I objected to *Junk* because it was about sad and inadequate individuals. It was irresponsible of adults to give it the Carnegie prize: the details about drug taking would encourage some youngsters to try them. Many teachers push awful literature at pupils. Ian McEwan, for instance, offers a view of life which can lead to teenage depression."

ALBAN DONOHOE

P.G. Wodehouse is among the Riviere family's current favourite authors

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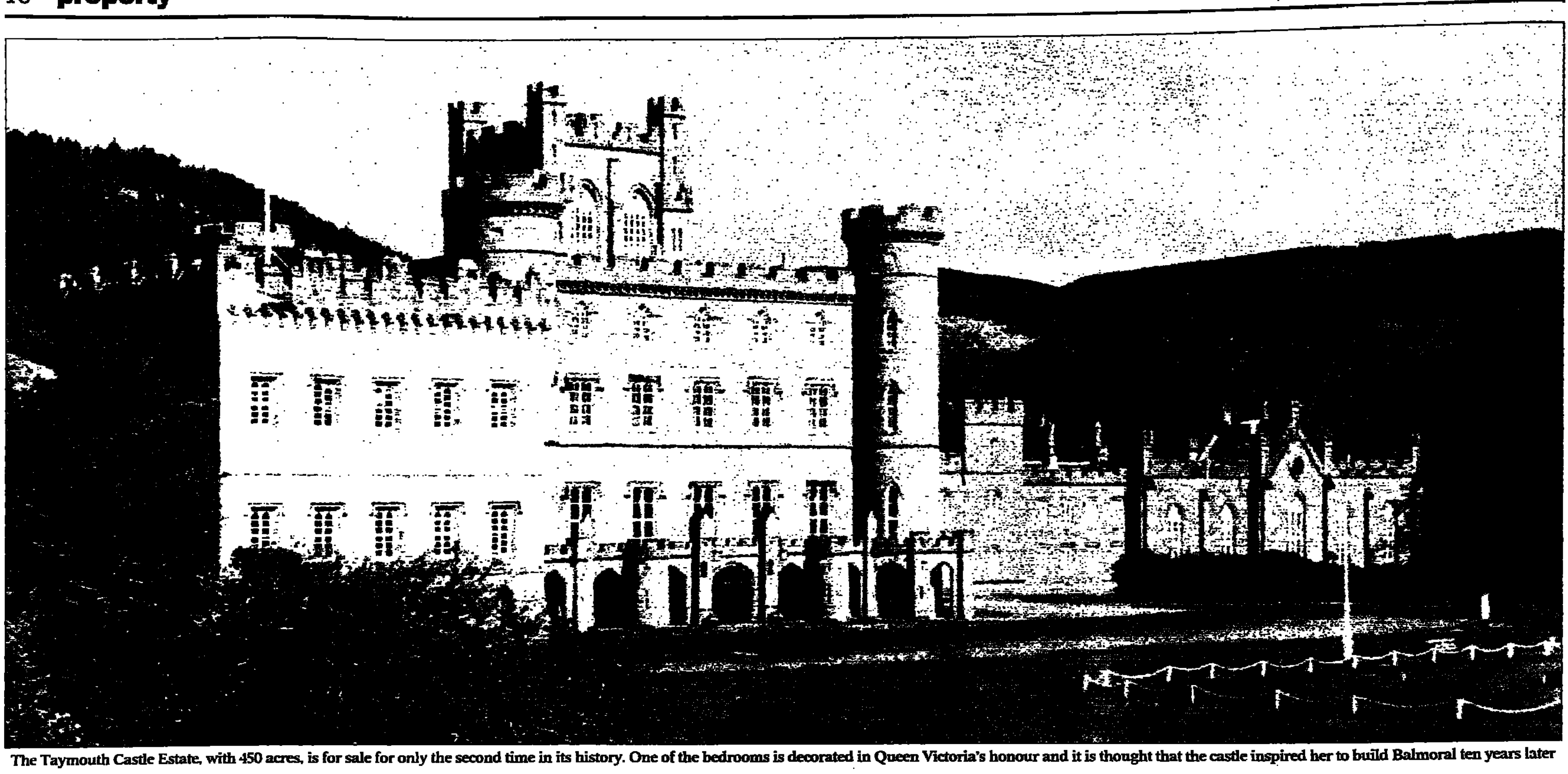


The Taymouth Castle Estate, with 450 acres, is for sale for only the second time in its history. One of the bedrooms is decorated in Queen Victoria's honour and it is thought that the castle inspired her to build Balmoral ten years later

Queen Victoria's favourite retreat

For £5 million, a castle with its own village can be yours, writes **Erica Wagner**

PROPERTY OF THE **WEEK**

When Queen Victoria danced with her beloved gillie in *Mrs Brown*, she did not dance at Balmoral. She danced in the Banner Hall at Taymouth Castle, its faux-medieval Victorian heraldry designed by Augustus Pugin, best known for the Houses of Parliament — performing yeoman service as Victoria's favourite retreat.

The Queen herself did visit here in 1842, accompanied by dear Albert; a bedroom of the castle attests to this, its elaborate ceiling further elaborated with their entwined initials and the date. She was taken with the castle and its situation: "The beauty of the surrounding country, with its rich background of wooded hills, altogether formed one of the finest scenes imaginable," she recorded in her *Highland Journals*. It is not unlikely that her visit to Taymouth inspired the construction of Balmoral Castle more than ten years later.

Now Taymouth Castle Estate is for sale for only the second time in its history. At present, the estate — with the castle, much of the conservation village of Kenmore, the first two and half miles of the Tay and an 18-hole golf course designed by James Braid — comprises 450 acres. Once, when it was in the hands of the Campbells of Breadalbane (who built the first castle on this site in 1550) it ran to in excess of 400,000 acres: from Aberfeldy you could reach the west coast of Scotland without ever leaving Campbell lands.

The estate passed from Campbells to Mactaggarts in the 1920s, at which time the castle became a hotel and the golf course was added. During the Second World War, the castle was requisitioned and served as a Polish hospital. For the past 20 years it has been unoccupied, but the love and attention that Norman Chalmers, the caretaker, has lavished upon it has assured that it remains in perfect condition — and earned him an MBE. The castle's eight Pugin rooms make the building worthy of a Grade I listing: Historic Scotland provides grants to help it resist the elements.

Even if the High Victorian is not to your taste, it is hard not to find the castle's interior remarkable. From the Banner Hall, its ceiling a mass of heraldry — of all the families into which the Breadalbanes married — to the Chinese room, a satinwood-floored, gilt-ceilinged fantasia that took one Cecil Atkinson seven years to paint. Then there is the dining hall, seating 50, its tall windows overlooking the former site of the formal gardens, which are now in need of reconstruction.

Much of the rest of the castle — particularly the east wing — where the servant's quarters once were, is in need of restoration. A clock on an outer wall stands permanently at ten to twelve. Behind the castle stand some dilapidated breeze-block constructions dating from the castle's use in the Second World War; they are very unsightly, and the restoration of the gardens would be a welcome addition. But walking past some Nissen huts leads you to the glittering Tay, which on this sunny Saturday flowed fast and clear beneath the rococo Victorian "Chinese" bridge. The owner of Taymouth will have not only rights to fish salmon but — as the land includes the river banks — trout, too. What makes this estate unusual is its variety and integrity. There are no "holes" in its 450 acres, no parcels of land that have been sold off to previous buyers. Besides the fine fishing, the golf course and the properties within the castle grounds, much of the village of Kenmore — overlooking Loch Tay — is also included in the estate. While some of the houses there are privately owned, most, if they are to be sold, must be offered to the owners of the estate before other bids can be taken.

William Jackson, a partner in the Edinburgh offices of Knight Frank, says that selling a property like this is an opportunity that comes once in a career. It is, he says, "the Scottish equivalent of Luton Hoo".

Knight Frank sold Beaufort Castle, the estate of the late Master of Lovat, in the summer of 1995, but the properties are only comparable by their castles. Beaufort — asking price £6 million — included more than 19,000 acres of open hillground for shooting and stalking, but no golf course, river or village.

Andrew and Barbara Mactaggart have run the estate for nine years, and will be sad to leave. "But this isn't a garage sale," says Mrs Mactaggart in her unexpected Dallas drawl. It is a long way from Texas to Taymouth but it is clear that her years here — managing the estate, running a fine little shop in the restored church in Kenmore, sending her two children to the local school — have been happy ones.

"We just want to see the place up and running the way it ought to be," she says. They would like to find a smaller, perhaps more manageable, estate of their own: there is no doubt that Taymouth would have to be run on a grand scale.

Over the mantel of the inn in Kenmore is scrawled a poem in Robert Burns's own hand: *"The Tay meand'ring sweet in infant pride, the palace rising on its verdant side/ The lawns wood-fring'd in Nature's native task, the hillocks dropt in Nature's careless haste/ The arches striding o'er the new-born stream, the village glistn'in in the noontide beam."*

It may not be his finest composition, but the words still convey the beauty of Taymouth, one that has lasted, will last, for centuries.

● *Agents: Knight Frank 0131-225 8171.*

'It was one of the finest scenes you could imagine'

The cast of *Mrs Brown*, including Dame Judi Dench, at Taymouth Castle

MARKET COMMENT

TAYMOUTH Castle is a law unto itself, too grand and multifaceted for direct comparison with other Scottish properties, whether castles or sporting estates. There is, however, a broad-spectrum market for both, dominated by overseas and English buyers.

Indeed, the term castle is pretty all-embracing: practically every Scottish village has something by that name. But while some come with a couple of acres you could pick up a glorified pile of rubble with a history for £10,000, or pay anything up to £1 million for an exceptional property — depending on location and land.

The basic choice is between a plain square keep, L-plan or Z-plan, depending on the period of construction (though the former in particular, saddled with tiny windows and front door, vastly thick walls and a great many stairs, is impractical Georgian or Victorian extensions render them more habitable.

JAMES MCNABB at Savills sold eight castles last year, for prices between £275,000 (needing work) and £600,000, mostly to Continentals.

Sporting estates are valued in terms of the sporting "crop": thus, grouse shooting is worth £2,000-£2,500 per brace; salmon fishing fetches £5,000-£8,000 per salmon and deer hunting £15,000-£17,000 per stag. Savills currently have two on the market, at around £5 million.

Most owners keep the sport for private use. But it is feasible to let the sporting rights as a way of helping to cover costs, and land may also be let for sheep farming if it's below 1,500 or so feet. But in most cases you can expect to lose money on its upkeep.

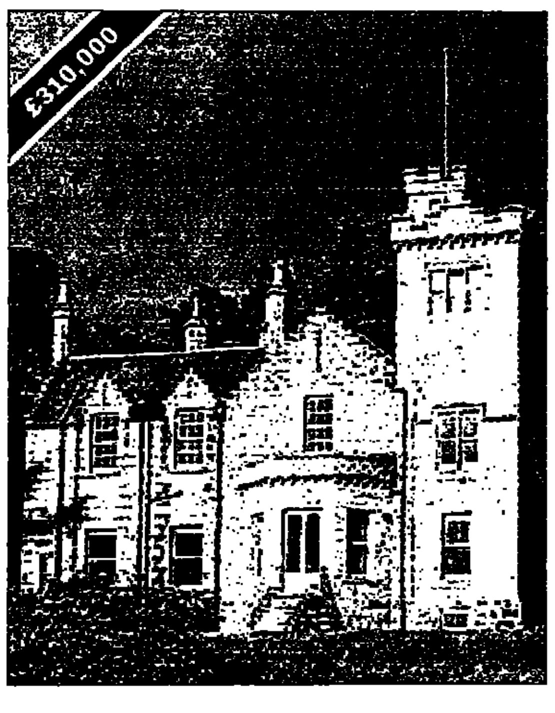
FAITH GLASGOW

DREAM HOMES

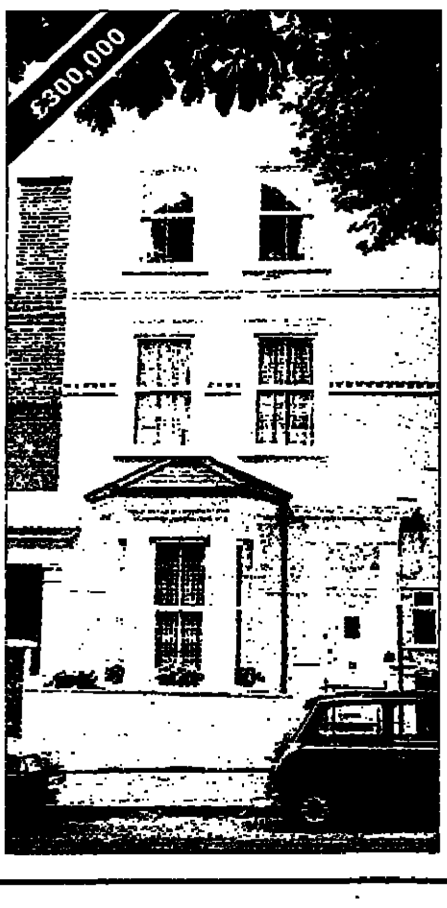
SALTRAM HOUSE, near Plympton, Devon, features in the film *Sense and Sensiblity* (above) as the Dashwood family home, Norland Park. The Georgian mansion, set in 291 acres of parkland, was left to the National Trust in 1957 with its original contents, including a host of portraits by Joshua Reynolds. The property has been valued at over £25 million.

FLOORS CASTLE in Kelso, southern Scotland (above), was the setting for Tarzan's ancestral home in the film *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*. It is the home of Sir Guy Innes-Ker, the 10th Duke of Roxburghe, and is set in 60,000 acres on the banks of the River Tweed. The castle has a ballroom, library and two dining rooms.

HADDON HALL, near Bakewell, Derbyshire, was featured as Thornfield House in the film *Jane Eyre* (above). The medieval manor house, situated above the River Wye, dates back to the 13th century and is currently the family home of Charles Manners CBE, the 10th Duke of Rutland. The property has its own chapel, clock tower, long gallery, banqueting hall, a trout lake and several acres of terraced gardens.



In the Scottish highlands, £310,000 will buy Glentruim (above), a 55-acre estate, near Newtonmore, Inveress-shire, about 20 miles from Aviemore, with salmon fishing on the rivers Spey and Trium. It includes a 19th-century category B-listed eight-bedroom house, a two-bedroom gate lodge, two bedroom coach house, cottage and stable block (Strutt & Parker, 0131-226 2500).



HOMESWAP

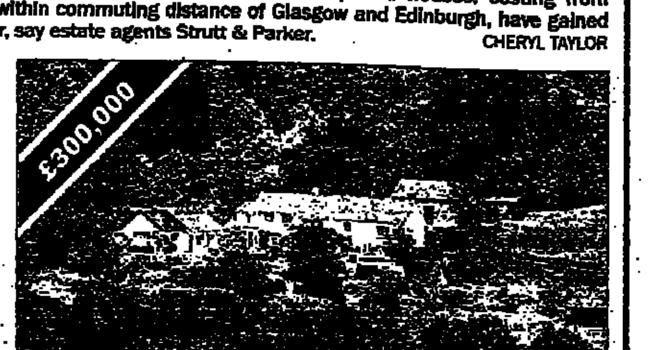
A REPORT from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors published this week shows that the overheated housing market is beginning to cool. The report on house prices in England and Wales over the past quarter shows that prices rises are slowing down. Only in London and the West Midlands is a shortage of supply continuing to fuel increases above the national average – up 25 per cent in some places over the past year.

Elsewhere, home-buyers worried about rising mortage interest rates are no longer prepared to pay inflated prices, particularly in the North West, the East Midlands and the South East. "There are indications that the market has tired of high prices. This, coupled with recent interest rate rises, has alarmed some purchasers who fear this might be the start of a continuing trend," says Ian Perry of the RICS.

The prospect of a Scottish parliament is not deterring relocating English buyers looking for family homes north of the border. English and overseas purchasers account for up to 20 per cent of the Scottish country house market. Five bedroom period houses, costing from £250,000 to £350,000, within commuting distance of Glasgow and Edinburgh, have gained up to 20 per cent this year, say estate agents Strutt & Parker.

CHERYL TAYLOR

This four-bedroom terraced Victorian family house (left) on the North End Road, north London, within walking distance of Golders Green Underground station, will set you back just under £300,000 (Savills, 0171-431 4844).



Spend £300,000 in north Devon, and you could become the proud owner of Rockshead (above), a 57-acre estate with pasture, woodland and fishing on the River Bray, near Brayford and the Exmoor National Park. It includes a four bedroom house, a range of stables and traditional stone barns (Knight Frank, 01392 423111).

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CHEPSTOW ROAD W2 raised grnd flr, 1 bed conv, with high ceilings, period features, balc. £129,950 L/H. Westbourne Estate Agents 0171 727 8612.

COMPANY SALE Lisson Grove NW8 Excellent 4 bed town house with patio gdn. Freehold £259,950. Must be sold. Sandfords 0171 708 9922

GT TITCHFIELD ST, W1. 3 bd maisonette, long lse, low s/c, needs work £215k 0171 724 9919

HYDE PARK W2 Sussex Lodge 2 bed flat, 3rd flr, lift, 36 yr lease £176,000. 0171 724 9919 t

INVERNESS TERRACE W2 Nr Queens Way luxury 2 dble bed 1st flr mais, in p/b blk, lux K/kit, GCH. £159,950. L/H Westbourne Estate Agents 0171 727 8612.

LANCASTER GATE Penthouse, 2 bed/2 ensuite, s/f kitchen, lift £205,000. 01702 201526.

LITTLE VENICE W9 Stunning 2 bed apt, high ceilings, 1st flr period conversion. Close Warwick Ave Tube £239,950 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

MARBLE ARCH. Macready House luxury p/b blk, lift, porr, gym, jacuzzi, 3 bed, 2 bath, pkg space £340,00. 0171 724 9919

MARYLEBONE NW1 Excellent 2 bed conv, lge patio, prime location o/s Baker St £167,500 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

VICTORIA SW1 Studio flat, sep kitchen, bathrm, 1st flr period block, low svce charges. £88,500. 0181 960 7211 (H).

W1. Queen Anne St. 4 beds, 3 baths, clkrm, maid, P/B blk, porter. £550,000. 0171 724 9919

W2 Bright refurbed 2 bed flt on 4th flr in pop PBB £195,000 Westways 0171 792 2167

W9 Central mansion block flats, two and three beds from £179,950 - £230,000. Call Pembertons 0171 266 2020 or 586 5999

WESTBOURNE TERRACE W2 Magnificent 2 dble bed 2nd flr conv, grand West facing recp, fireplace, superb condition. £295,000 L/H. Westbourne Estate Agents 0171 727 8612.

WESTMINSTER Prestigious two dbl bed mansion flat in good cond. Comm sauna. Spa and Gym. Resid porter. Bathroom and ensuite shower. Freehold £186,000. Ludlow Thompson 0171 820 0123

WEYMOUTH MEWS W1 desirable 2 bed flat in quiet Central location o/s Harley St £224,950 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

W2 Huge 4 bed 2 bth flt in PBB needs modernisation £220,000. Westways 0171 792 2167

W2 Spac 3 bed 2 bth flat on 3rd flr (lift) of pop PBB £199,000 Westways 0171 792 2167

W2 Unusual F/H mod 2 bed, 2 bath cott, mews dev. £199,950. Westways 0171 792 2167.

W2 Westbourne Terr 2 bed flt in stucco period conv £190,000. Westways 0171 792 2167

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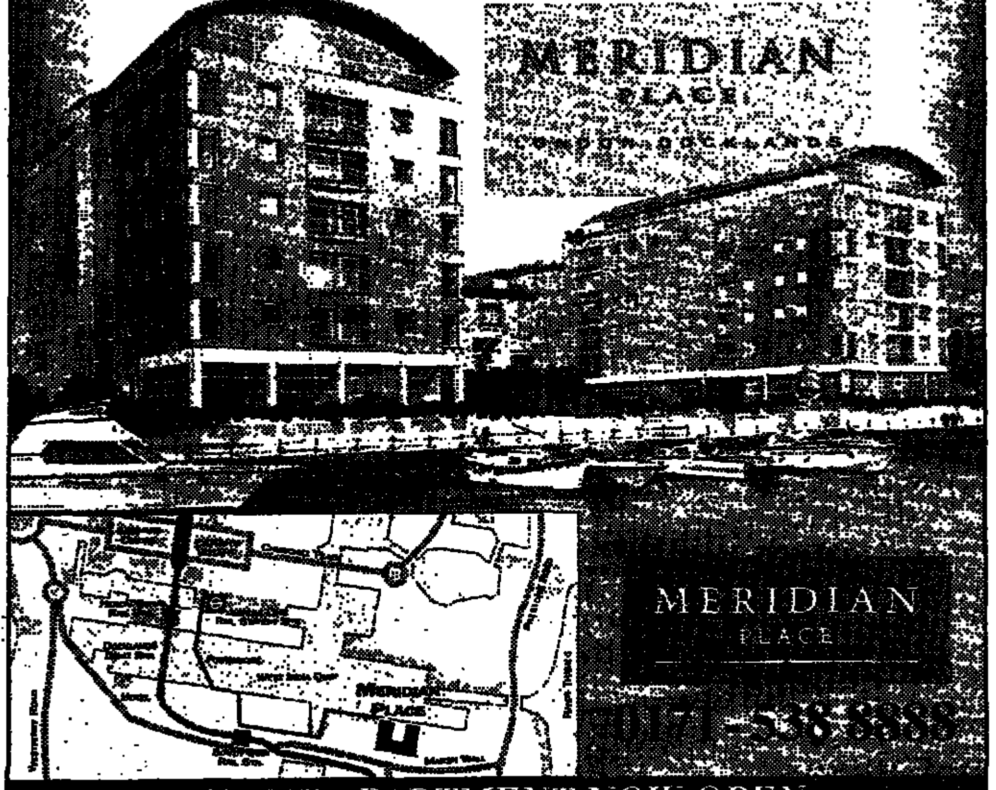

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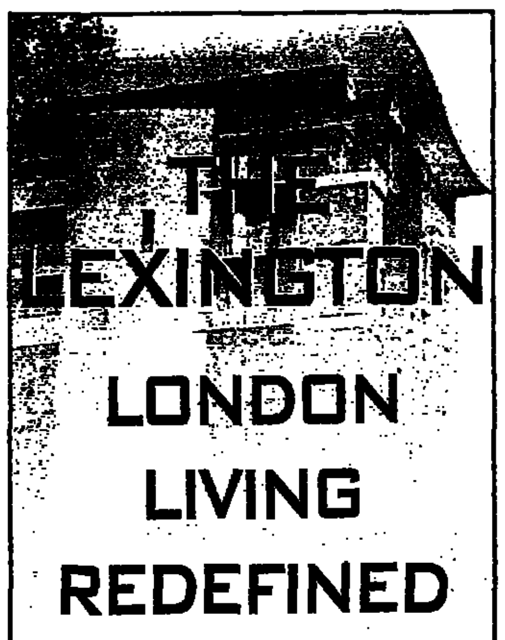

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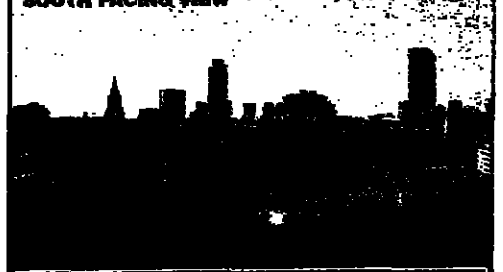

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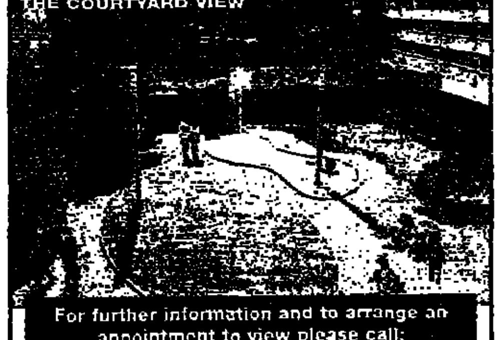

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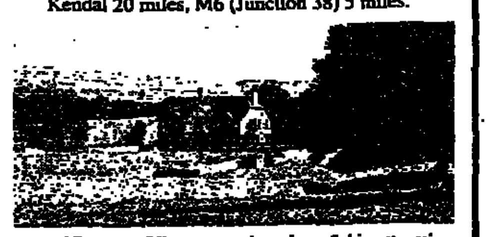

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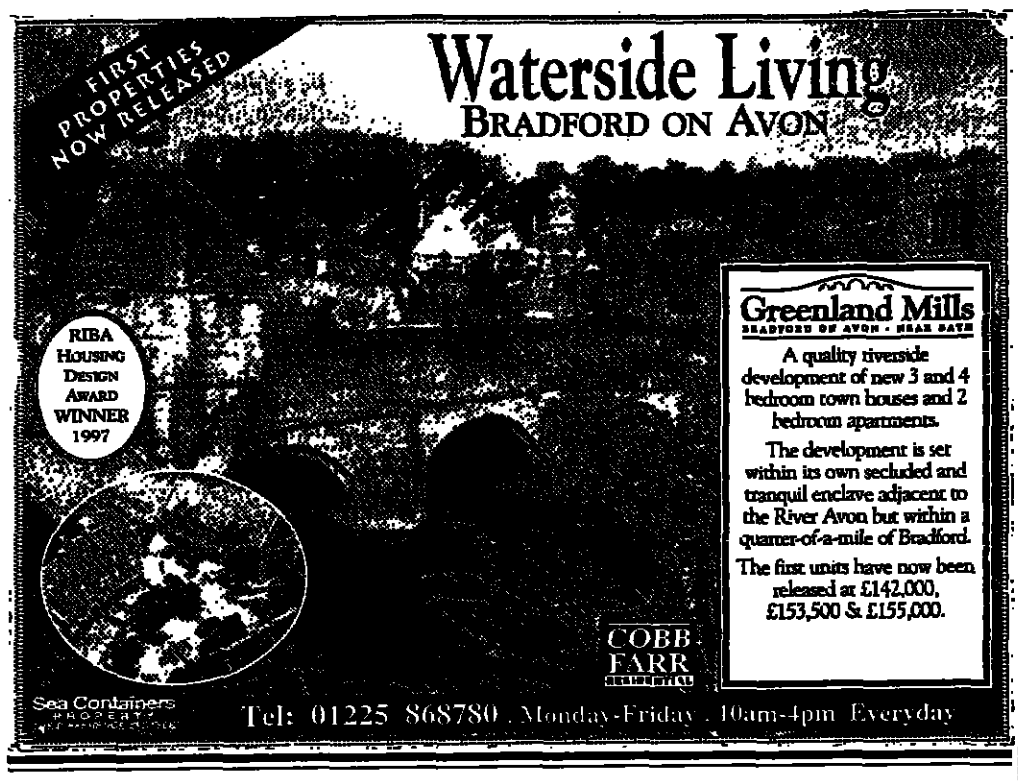

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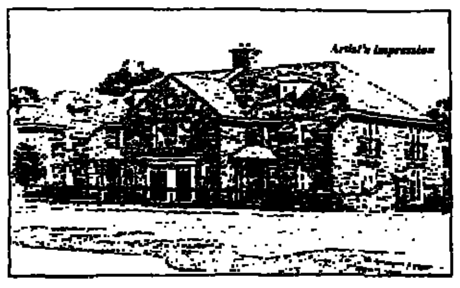

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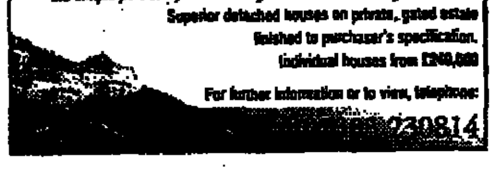

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W1 Newly refurbished large lux 3 bed 3 bath flat, garden sq £525 p/w. 0171 229 8808

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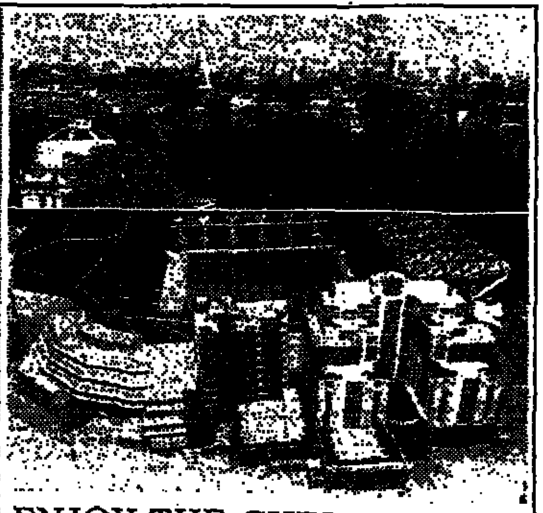

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Tom Rowland meets an estate agent whose honest descriptions of properties may take the wind out of his sales

Finding fault is his folly

If estate agent Gwyn Headley were not an honest man he might have thought twice before describing Blacborough House in the sales details as "a warren of 54 high, thin rooms, only six or seven utterly derelict".

He might have held back before calling it a "grim, Grade-II mansion", or revealing that "the owners, who have lived here since 1952, promise to remove the surrounding scrapyard when they go".

He might even have kept his pithy conclusion to himself: "Lots of problems. Big challenge."

Sadly he did not. Although his desire to lay the full facts before his clientele guarantees that there will be no problems with the Property Misdescriptions Act or any phone calls from irate buyers complaining that they have been sent on a wild goose chase, the owners of the house were not amused.

When the details came out this week, Mr Headley had a phone call from Chris Edmond, owner of the house near Cullompton, Devon, informing him that his firm, Pavilions of Splendor, had been taken off the case.

"They didn't like the description one bit, and I lost the commission as a result," said Mr Headley, whose London-based company specialises in selling listed buildings. "It is a shame because it is the lead house in our new sales magazine.

"They were put in touch with us by the conservation officers at Tiverton district council. Blacborough House is a listed house and needs repairing, and the owners can't afford it," he said.

Christine Edmond, who runs a car repair and road haulage business from the house with her husband, was unimpressed. "He has never even seen the house," she said. "Another agent came round and we won't be using him again either." But she did admit that the building had fallen into disrepair. "It could be rather a nice house if only it had a few hundred thousand pounds spent on it," she said.

ASHLEY COOMBES

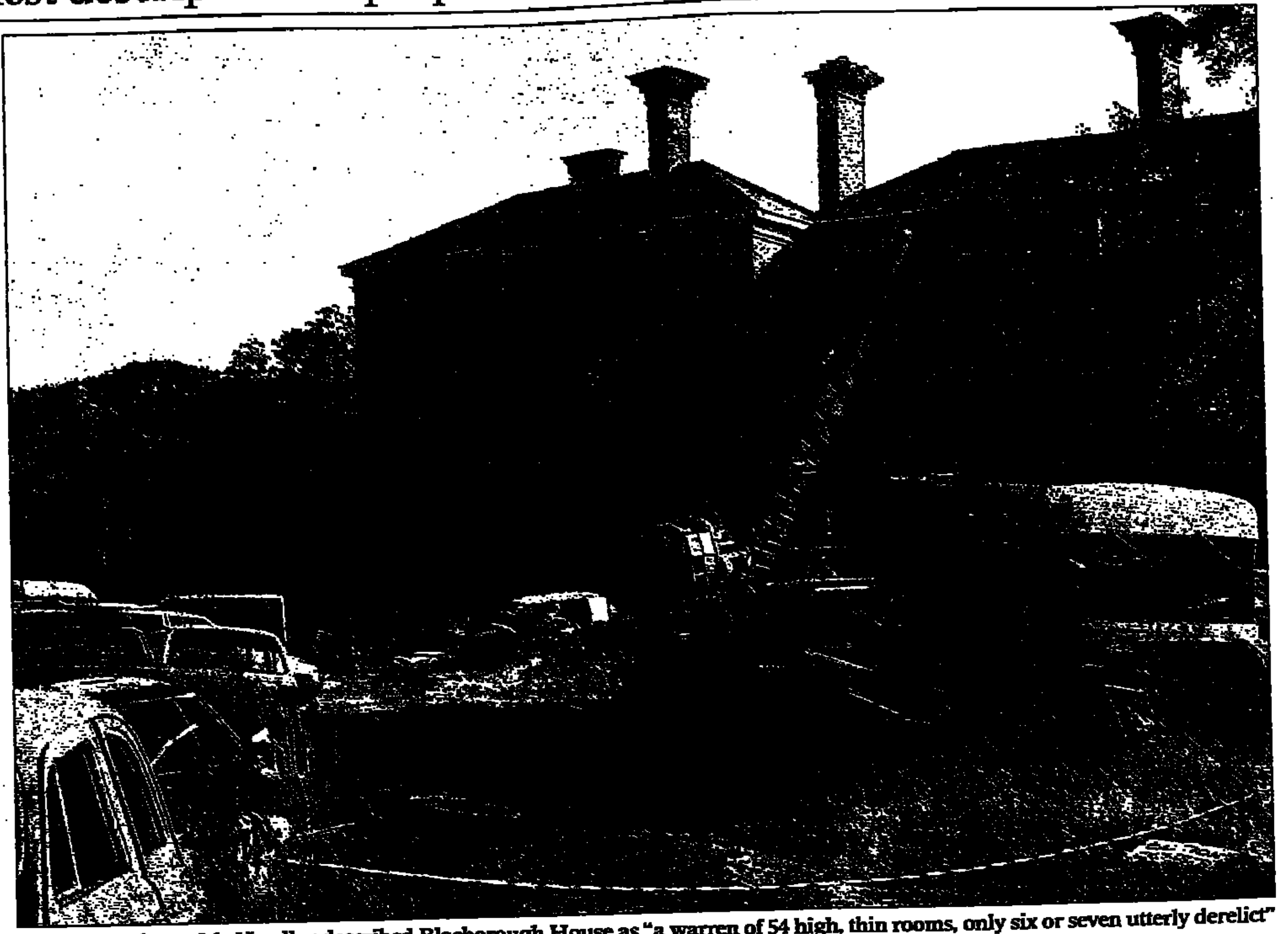
To the point: estate agent Gwyn Headley tells it like it is

Blacborough was built in 1838 for the Earl of Egremont, with two entrances and two grand front doors, one half to be used as home by the local vicar, the other by the lord of the manor as his country house. The piles of rotting cars have been there for a long time and even get a mention in Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England*. "A car dump now surrounds the ruins of the palatial double villa," says the book, last revised a decade ago.

"Actually I hope we have now sold the house," said Mrs Edmond. "We have had somebody privately come along." The guide price is £350,000. Mr Headley is philosophical. A wreck is a wreck, he argues. He runs a national agency but always works with a local agent. In this case, he says, the damning report on the building was confirmed by the owners.

House sellers in general seem to have lost their sense of humour. In the 1950s, when London estate agent Roy Brooks started selling houses by telling the truth in small ads in *The Sunday Times*, he became a national institution.

One of Brooks's classic descriptions was the advertisment that ended: "Back bedroom suitable only for dwarf." It attracted 30 would-be buyers. Others were equally direct: "Titled Tory tycoon's tiny town house . . ."; "Glum attic flat for midgets . . ."; "Fashionable Boltons" [the haunt of royalty in mufti] . . ."; "Filthy [by courtesy of Lots Road power station] but fashionable Chelsea . . ."; and "Don't be misled by the exterior — it's worse inside". A report in the *Daily Mirror* claimed Brooks received 120 inquiries after one of his ads declared "To those who can endure slightly sordid surroundings for the sake of a fashionable address, we can offer . . ."



On the scrapheap: Mr Headley described Blacborough House as "a warren of 54 high, thin rooms, only six or seven utterly derelict"

When Brooks died in 1971, the fun of the small ads disappeared. The *Daily Mail* mourned him with the headline "Why Sundays will never be the same".

Mr Headley denies that he is trying to ape Brooks, just to find interesting buildings and inspire new owners to take them on. Business is now starting to take off, he says, with the agency dealing with a record number of properties.

His descriptions are certainly better written and more entertaining than those on offer from conventional high street agents.

An agent who tells the truth about the houses he is selling, rather than hiding behind bland clichés, is a rare breed.

Describing part of a Victorian complex for sale in Farringdon, Hampshire, he says: "The Rev Thomas Massey had a plan. Unfortunately no one was allowed to share his secret, and so singlehandedly he carried on building his massive folly in one of Hampshire's prettiest villages. For 30 years he toiled, buoyed up by the knowledge that one day he would finish his, um, er — well nobody is quite sure what it is."

A pretty period house in Coedmor, Cardigan, for sale for about £140,000, comes complete with double glazing, much to Mr Headley's distress.

"The UPVC windows were put in before the house was listed Grade II. If they offend thine eyes, pluck them out."

A little Scottish cottage does only slightly better. "In the hamlet of Heck, three miles from Lockerbie, stands this ordinary little cottage. So why the heck is it a Pavilion of Splendor? Because it comes with fishing rights over four miles of the River Annan for the permanent resident."

Not that he is always rude about his commissions. A water tower near Bedworth in Warwickshire, on offer at a guide price of £95,000, gets almost lyrical treatment.

"We don't expect this to linger long on our books. It is hard to find an unconverted water tower anywhere, let alone one so close to Coventry and Brum but, more importantly, this is a real gem of Arts and Crafts architecture. The quality of the brickwork has to be seen to be believed."

● *Pavilions of Splendor, 22 Mount View Road, London N4. Send SAE and a guinea for brochure.*

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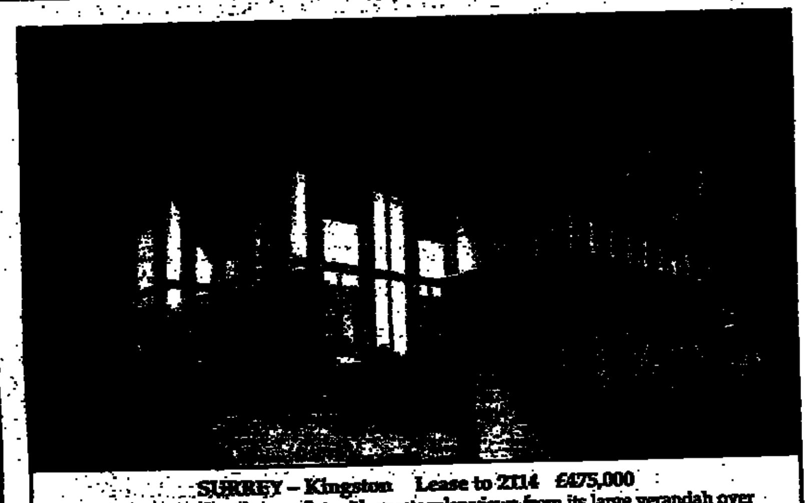

SURREY – Kingston Lease to 2114 £475,000
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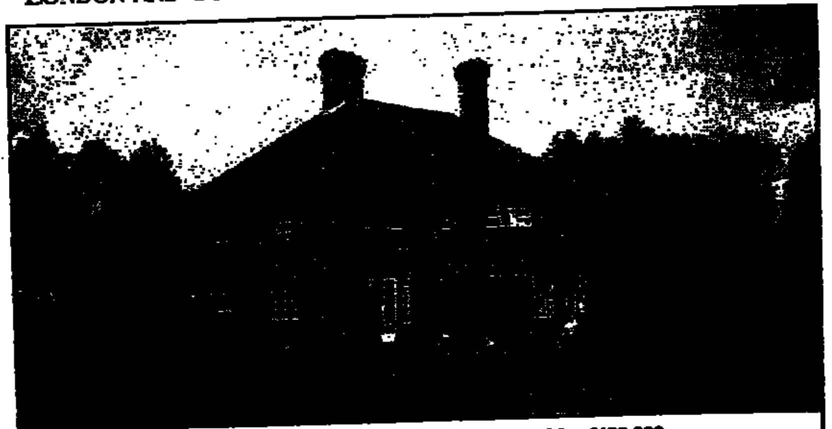

HAMPSHIRE – New Forest Price Guide: £498,000
Standing in private mature grounds, an imposing country house with a guest cottage. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, study, conservatory and garaging. About 0.6 ha (1.7 acres).
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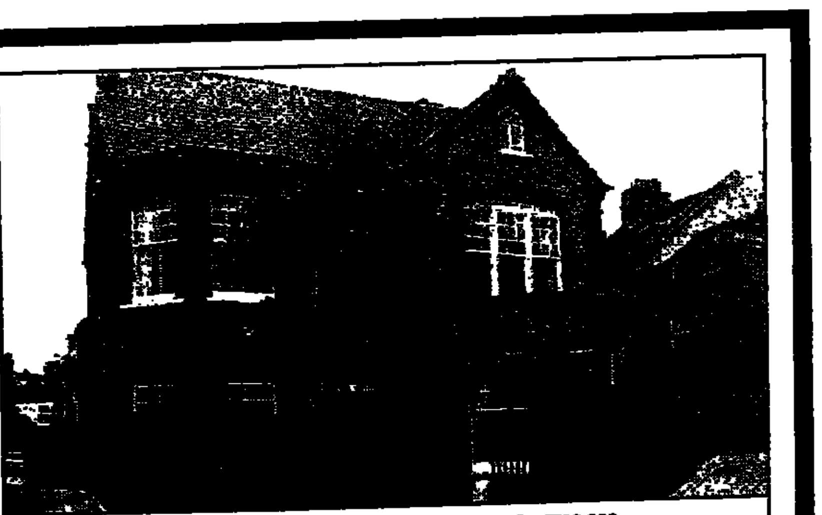

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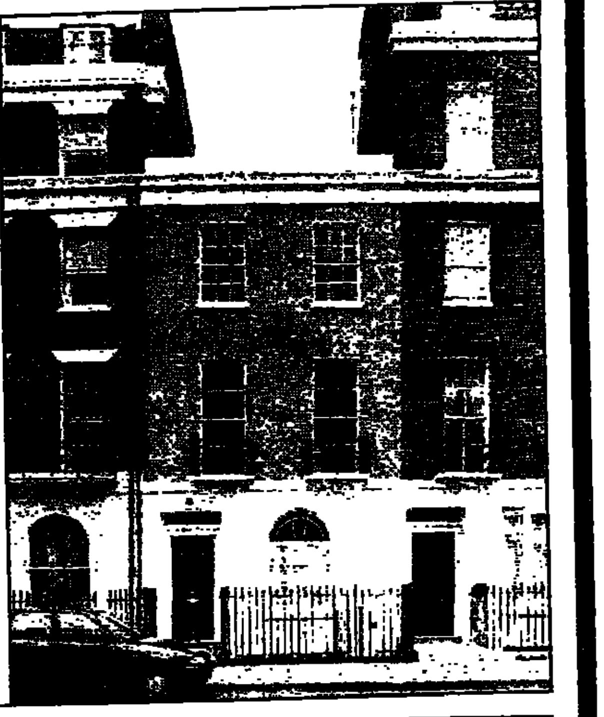

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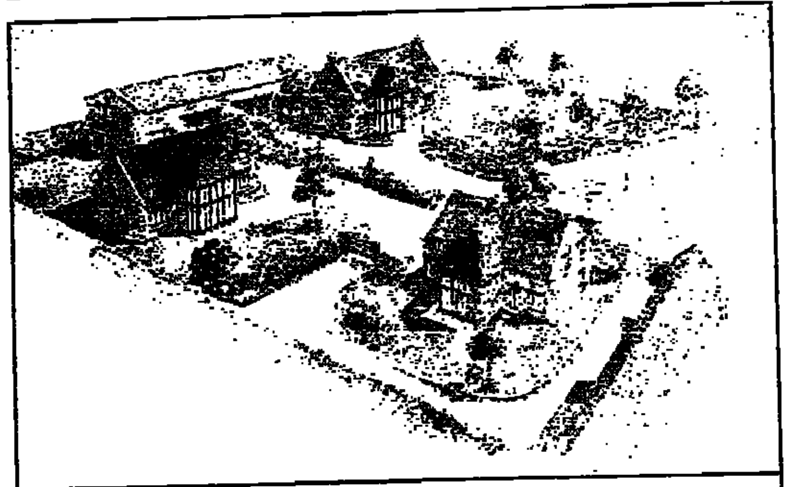

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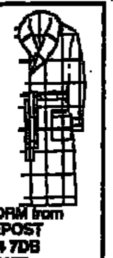

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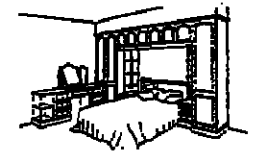

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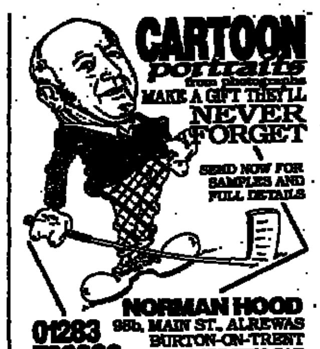

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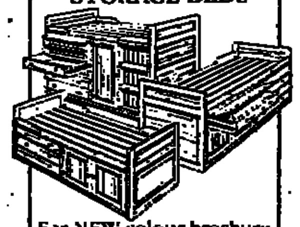

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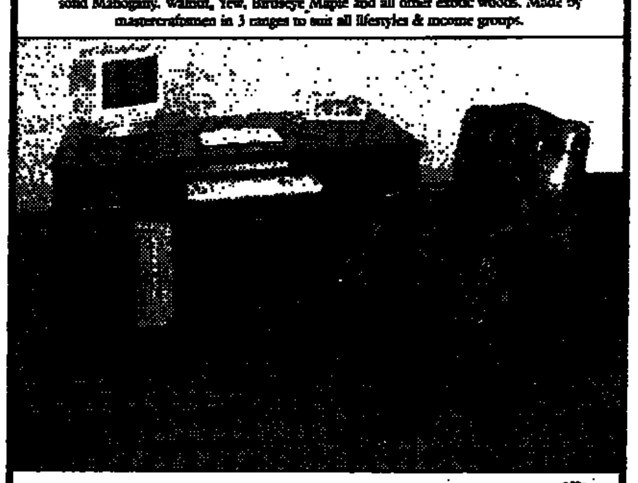

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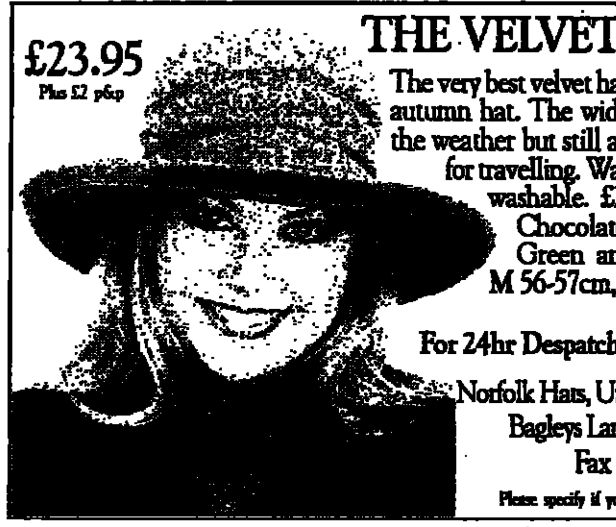

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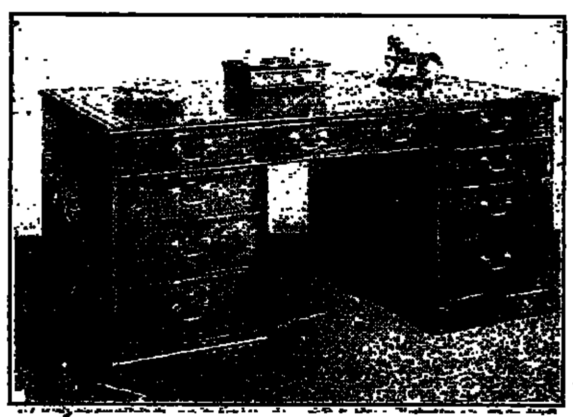

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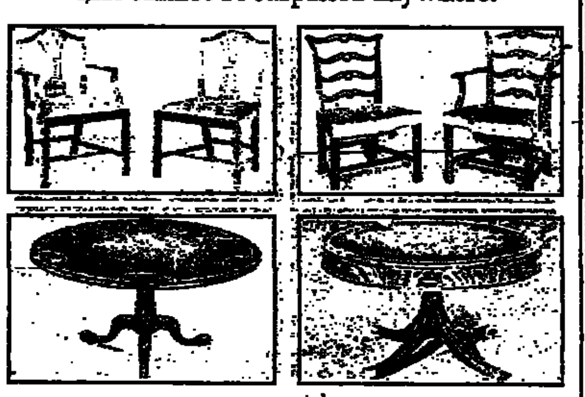

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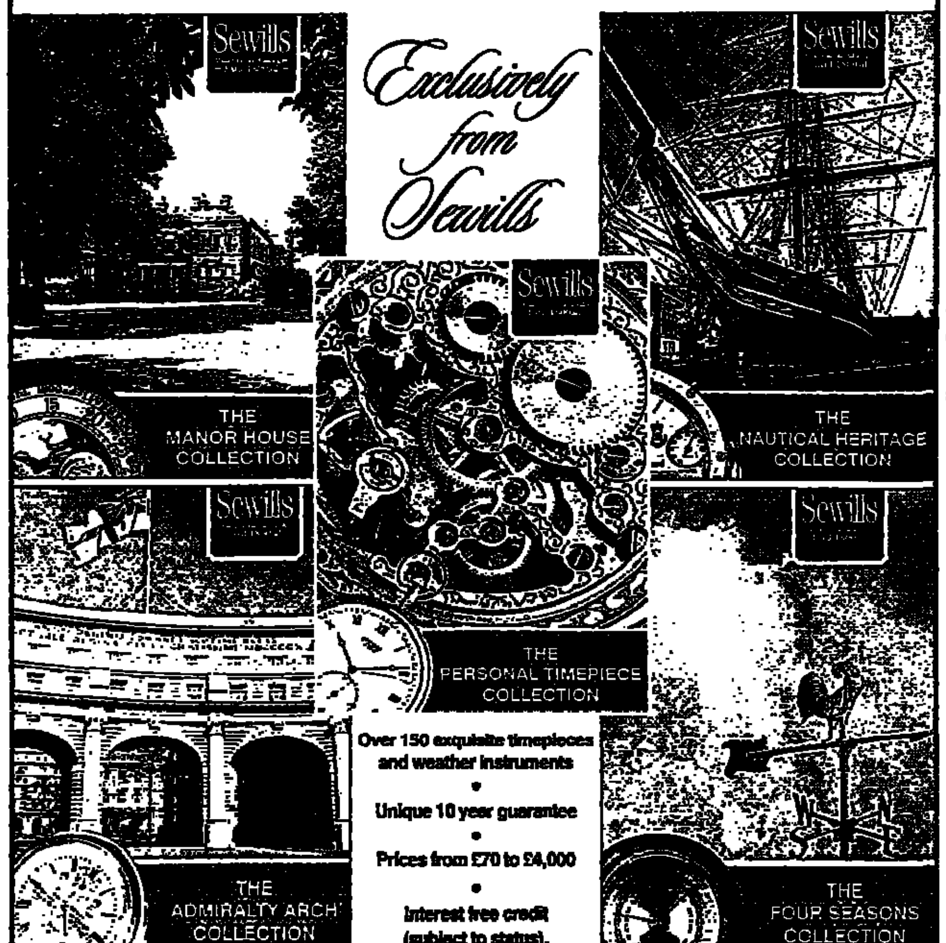

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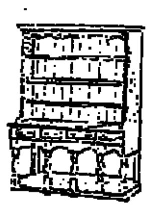

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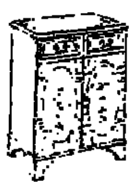

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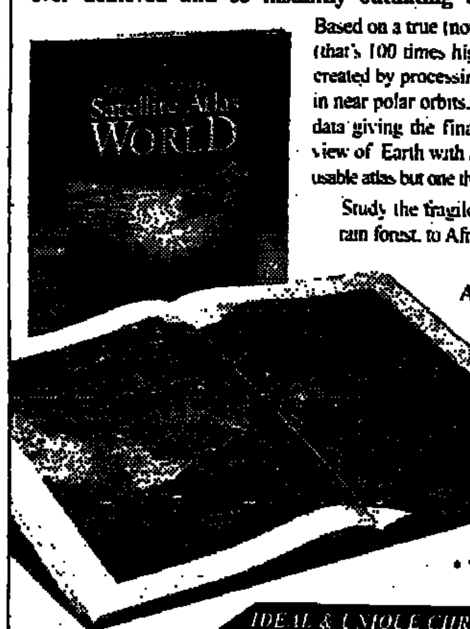

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Earthy subjects are not excluded here, and if we want to talk about non-mains drainage we will. Fearlessly

Cesspits and the lonely heart

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

Before I launch into a monthly review of letters received, I would like to offer a word of reassurance: whatever subject *you might* care to raise, provided it is of a rural nature, is welcome here. This is not the case with *some other* publications that give the impression of being broad-minded and streetwise but are, in fact, far more inhibited than us.

Time Out contains listings for every conceivable form of entertainment to be found on the streets of London, and I mean every. Think of *it as a* parish magazine where the main activities in the debauched village centre around drink, dance, music and sex of every type. Strange, then, that an innocent doctor who is also a clerk *to a parish* council near Sittingbourne in Kent should fall foul of their censorship rules. He writes:

"I decided to advertise in the Lonely Hearts column of *Time Out*. As you may be aware, wives are a scarce commodity in these country parts. I carefully crafted the advertisement: 'Male doctor, 37, environmental interests, seeks petite intelligent interesting female to share idyllic country life. Must like bluebells, sheep, open fires and cesspits.'

"I dictated my ad to a young lady and we got on all right until we reached the last word, at which her tone changed. She said, 'wait a minute'. I got the impression she was consulting her superior. When she came back she said 'You do realise the Editor reserves the right to change the wording?' I was slightly taken aback and realised she was genuinely offended by the word cesspit. I told her I was happy to change the wording to 'non-mains drainage', but she didn't say any more about it."

Regular *readers of this column* will know that such earthy subjects are not excluded here, and if we want to talk about cesspits we will. Fearlessly.

To the next topic. It is now several weeks since Trevor Boon raised the question of odd behaviour in young badgers. He reported on one in particular which had no fear of humans whatsoever, and went so far *as to make friendly* overtures towards his Wellington boot. Although it was assumed that this was unusual behaviour for such a timid creature *as the badger, it* appears not to be the case. Brian Philips, coordinator of his local badger group *in Hertfordshire* and Middlesex, writes:

"I was fortunate enough to spend almost an hour watching a cub which not only approached to within a foot of me, but also *showed remarkable* trust in merely looking at me, sniffing, then turning its back to carry on digging for grubs while I knelt beside it for a badger's-eye view. Anyone who is worried about a badger behaving unusually should contact their local badger group."

As a starting point, try the address below. *But don't* be surprised if you are not alone in having experienced one of these close encounters. *Sheila* Mickelwright, of Tadworth in Surrey, enjoyed a similar experience, and offers an explanation.

"I was watching a sett at dusk when *the female and two cubs appeared.* One cub came over to inspect my foot, put its paws on my leg and looked into my boot. I was wearing *white* boots. I have always understood that badgers have poor sight and I wonder if the cub thought I was another *cub? I wonder if* Mr Boon happened to be wearing white trainers?"

Another point, first raised several months ago, must be cleared up. When *asked how to tell* townsfolk from countryfolk, *one of you* offered the suggestion that "townsfolk always climb over a gate at the wrong end". Miss Dex, of Cambridge, wrote to admit that she did not know which was the right side. She *writes*, begging to be put her out of her misery. My guess is that you should always climb a gate nearest to the hinges so as to put the least strain on the hanging post. I am right, aren't I?

Finally, a closing word on Mythuglum, or Bees' Wine, which has caused an avalanche of letters. This is an alcoholic brew which is made by using a "blob" of yeast, which in the fermenting process takes on a life of its own and swells, rises and falls menacingly within the jar as if about to take over the world. Sister Dominic, a faithful and much valued correspondent who signs herself "an elderly nun", writes:

"Picture the dark, cool larder of a Victorian nunnery more than 60 years ago. A row of glass jars stand on the shelf. A timid, white-veiled novice [me] is instructed how to Feed the Bees — 'place a spoonful of sugar daily in each jar'. No questions asked, no explanation given. Weeks later, the liquid, strained and decanted, would appear in the refectory on three occasions of the year — Christmas Day, Easter Sunday and Reverend Mother's Feast day. It was a welcome change *from water. I* noticed the brew was never served to visiting clergy in the parlour! They were regaled with Châteauneuf du Pape! In these decadent days, it is probably Blue Nun."

● *National Federation of Badger Groups, 15 Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Rd, London SW8 4BG (0171-498 3220).*

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Spirits were high when English cricketers challenged the French at their own game, **Ivo Tennant** says

The day Atherton bouled them over

Nasser Hussain, Henry Blofeld, Mike Atherton and Graham Gooch talk strategy

On the ball: Atherton in action during the boules match which took place in Reims

England's cricketers may not have won back the Ashes this year but they did beat the Australians in the one-day series. Emboldened by this glorious achievement, Michael Atherton and his England colleagues recently decided it was time to teach another old enemy a lesson. So they opted to take on France. At boules.

The tour began with a champagne breakfast on the Eurostar from London, continued its dizzy way south to the Champagne region and then culminated in an arena beside *the great cathedral of Reims.* Atherton's star-studded team included Nasser Hussain, the England vice-captain, and Graham Gooch, one of the *most prolific run-scorers in the* history of cricket.

This is Atherton's benefit year. For a professional cricketer, this is a series of fundrais*ing events which bring a tax*-free sum that is supposed to equate to a pension. Atherton will hope to make at least £200,000. Rather than opt for endless fundraising dinners, he asked his wine merchant, Lay & Wheeler, to organise a different kind of tour.

Atherton's air of faint detachment and the element of wariness in Gooch's nature tend to discourage too much ear-bending from cricket's travelling supporters — "winkles" as the players and press call them. The 60 or so enthusiasts who have paid £675 each for the pleasures of drinking champagne and mingling with the top players generally leave the England captain alone.

The Champenois relished guiding the party around *Reims* and Epernay. "We do not have many cricketers in France," said Guy Bizot, of Bollinger.

"We don't have many, either," observed *Mark Ilott*, the England fast bowler, all too conscious of criticisms of the *county championship game.*

Amid all the imbibing (no spittoons here) the party wound its way past the River Marne to Hautvillers, the *most picturesque of all* the villages in the area. This was where Dom Pérignon lived, invented champagne and died. For the first time since he boarded Eurostar, the jovial Henry Blofeld, of Radio 4's *Test Match Special*, was stumped for words: the worn Latin inscription on a commemorative plaque in the church was beyond him. He quickly recovered his wits at a sumptuous dinner given by Laurent-Perrier, recounting stories about his late fellow commentators, John Arlott and Brian Johnston.

Cricket followers have an abiding fascination with *Test Match Special* and its never-ending japes and cakes. They are as keen, *on this trip*, to talk to "Blowers" as to any of the players. He is a part of their *lives every summer.*

It was against this background of indulgence that the sport began. Boule Lyonnaise Maison Blanche is the leading traditional club in France. Its captain, Gerard Vanier, who plays for his country, is tanned, tracksuited and steeped in this game which dates back to ancient Greece. Boules tends to evoke images of elderly parties with berets, paunches and half-smoked *Gitanes* whiling away their afternoons beneath the plane trees of Provence. In reality, *competitive boules is just as* keenly professional as cricket.

> 'I need armagnac to help me with boules' rules'

The French team kindly produced coffee — and a double armagnac for Blofeld who declared: "It's the only thing which makes the rules comprehensible." The French also played a video demonstration for their *rosbif* opponents before ushering them into what, in boules, passes for the stadium. The English players immediately felt at home: the crowd — four pensioners and two dogs — was similar to that found on a county cricket ground.

What Vanier and his six-man team did not know was that Atherton and Gooch had played boules before, albeit only in *tank pits near Manchester and* Nottingham. The cricketers were puzzled by their hosts' apparent tendency to adapt to the vagaries of the game as *they went along.* "It's a bit like playing Pakistan," said Hussain, his left arm in plaster from an operation the previous week.

It was evident from the outset that this would not exactly be a close contest. So *Vanier displayed a degree of* sportsmanship which no Australian captain would ever countenance. He loaned one of his own players to the Eng*land team. The idea was to flip* the boule some 30 yards down the pit (gravel stops it from going too far or too wide) at five circular targets. It was *more* difficult than it appeared, especially when the England players realised that they were not allowed to bowl overarm.

Yet this evening-up of the teams had the desired effect. England had now progressed *beyond the dreaded nul points* beloved of the Eurovision Song Contest judges. The score stood at 3-3. There was one boule remaining, which *was entrusted to the England* captain. Atherton, when his back trouble permits, is a leg spinner, which is to say a bowler accustomed to flicking the ball out of the back of *his* hand with supple fingers and dextrous use of his wrist. He has the balance and poise of the top class sportsmen: that much we knew. He has also long had the ability to ignore mounting pressure. And his *aim is nigh-perfect.*

To the incredulity of the spectators, if not exactly to the consternation of his opposite captain, England won 4-3.

At the prizegiving, Vanier spoke, tactfully, of his surprise at the result and said the time had come for a twinning of this part of Reims with a town that would take up this great game in England.

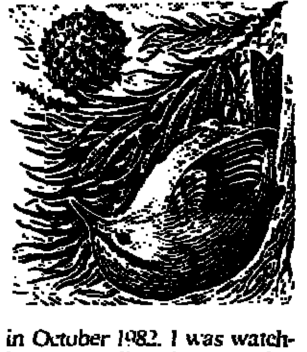
Tiny but a great little fighter

FEATHER REPORT

THE GOLDCREST is the smallest bird not only of the British Isles, but also of Europe and north-west Asia. It is a tubby, yellowish-green bird, about 3½ inches long, and named after the golden-orange streak on the top of its head. It is so small that sparrowhawks disdain it as *prey — there is just not enough* meat on it.

However, it is a vulnerable little creature. Large numbers are crossing the North Sea to *our islands this month, and in* strong winds many of them will just get blown into the waves and drown. Others take refuge on ships. Sometimes *very large flocks make the* journey successfully and arrive together. The record seems to be a fall of 15,000 goldcrests on the Isle of May in October 1982. I was watching one feeding the other day in a spruce fir at the edge of a wood. It might have been a local bird or one of the new *arrivals. As usual, it was fairly* tame, and was preoccupied with its search for insects. Goldcrests need to keep busy, because if they go without food *for a hour in the daytime they* are in danger of starving.

PETER BROWN



Through my field-glasses, I could see it inserting its tiny beak between the green fir-*needles and teasing out* minute insects or their eggs. It was continuously on the move, now leaning forward so that I could clearly see its glowing crest, now darting and hovering, now hammering at a small cocoon on a twig. *Because the goldcrest can* hover and cling beneath twigs, it is less affected by snow on the trees than might be expected. The insects on top may be buried, *but it can get to those* underneath.

IN RUSSIA, they have been recorded coming down and *feeding on insects and seeds* scattered on the snow, but that does not seem to be their habit in Britain.

In winter in Britain, they move about in small flocks, making thin calls with a ventriloquial effect that makes them hard to locate. They prefer to forage in conifer woods, but *are also found in* oak woods, and I have even come across one in a leafless hedge right out in the fields on a bleak January day. It was *just as busy and just as* indifferent to me.

At night they roost in thick bushes, with pairs or larger groups huddling together. Their small bodies lose heat rapidly if they sleep alone on a *frosty night. In spite of these* hazards, they are great survivors. In spring, when the migrants go back to their nestiong quarters, which may be as far away as Poland, there are still over a million *pairs* left in Britain, with their mossy nests swinging under the spruce or cedar boughs.

DERWENT MAY

● *What's about: Birders — Look and listen for the first redwings arriving for the winter. Twitchers — Look out for a Wilson's phalarope at Point of Ayre, North Wales, and a surf scoter at Bridlington Bay, Yorkshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

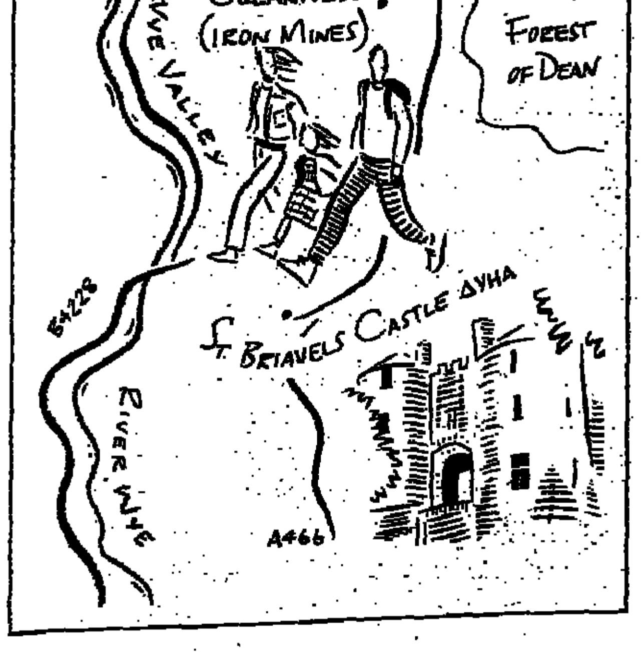
ON THE SPOT

Rural recommendations.

The place: St Briavels Castle, St Briavels, Gloucestershire
The view: the rolling hills of the Wye Valley dominate the *landscape towards* Wales *and* on a clear day the Black Mountains above Abergavenny are visible.
The appeal: the moated castle is the centre point of an unusual village with easy access to the Forest of Dean.
Aficionados: hikers, nature lovers and historians.
Historical interest: the 13th-century castle was built by Henry I and retains many interesting features, including a dungeon with 17th-century graffiti. The castle is one of the oldest youth hostels in the country.
When to visit: any clear day is wonderful.
OS reference: *558/046 on sheet 162.*
How to get there: take the B4228 from Chepstow.
Also nearby: the Forest of Dean with 22,000 acres of prolific wildlife. Three miles north are Clearwell Caves where iron was produced for 2,500 years.

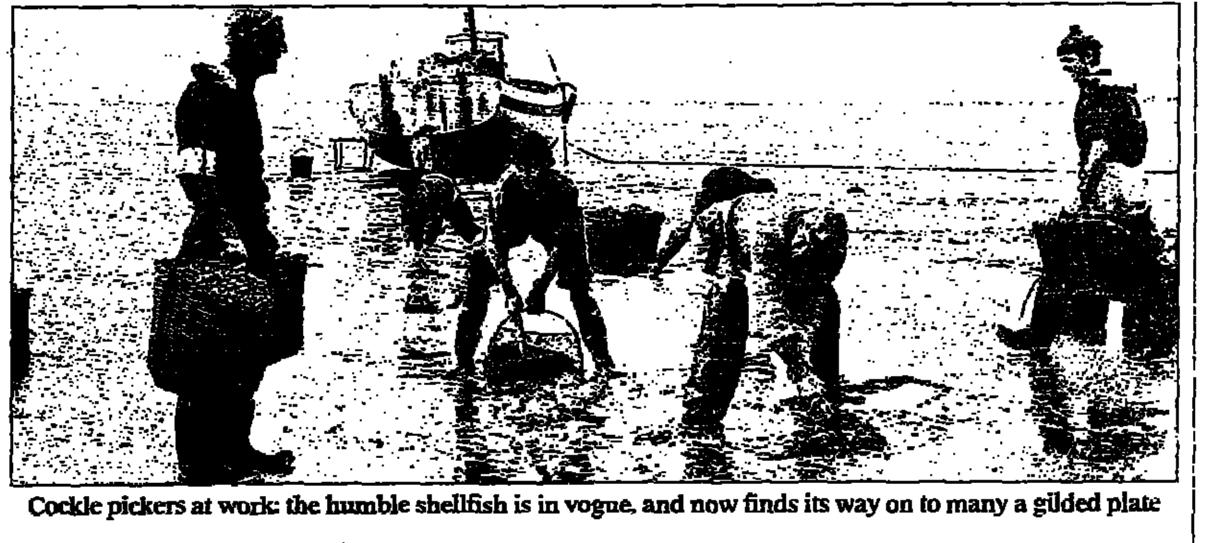
DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



Cockle picking is still alive, alive-oh

Alan Road examines an ancient tradition that has survived against all the odds



Cockle pickers at work: the humble shellfish is in vogue, and now finds its way on to many a gilded plate

Cockles may have once been cheap food for the masses, but, thanks to recent attention from such highbrow London restaurants as *Quaglino's, Le Gavroche* and *Pont de la Tour*, the cockle is coming out of its shell and sitting happily on even the most distinguished plates.

From Monday, the mollusc's upward mobility will be celebrated at the Swansea Cockle Festival, where chefs *from* all over Britain will be cooking with it. One local Chinese chef is even promising cockle pancake rolls.

Cockles have been picked around the Loughor Estuary, one of the country's most successful cockle areas, *since* Roman times. Peter Stead, a local *history* lecturer, recalls that Penclawdd, the centre of the industry, was once known locally as Cockletown. "It was rumoured that, although the pickers looked like peasants, they were millionaires," *Stead* recalls. "*I suspect* that was something of a myth."

Cockle business may be booming in the area, but, thanks to the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee, the beds are heavily regulated to preserve the local ecology.

"*They have kept* to traditional hand-raking and not allowed suction dredging and other mechanical harvesting methods used in some of the other fisheries," Stead says. Much of the estuary is a nature reserve *and a winter* home for migrating waders, ducks and geese.

Pickers are licensed and tightly regulated. *Collecting on Sundays and* at night is forbidden, as is the taking of cockles under a specified size. A daily haul of 6cwt is currently permitted to each individual. In winter, when cockles are smaller, it can take twice as long to gather this amount. Today only 44 licences *survive and these are* monopolised by half a dozen families.

Brian Jones's family has "gone to the sands", as they say hereabouts, for generations and his mother, Linda, is still involved. Picking was originally the preserve of the womenfolk to supplement their housekeeping money. At one time, more than 250 wives of men employed in the local coal and steel industries — wearing a distinctive uniform of red striped dress, grey *shawl with a black and white* checked apron — headed for the marshes at dawn with their ponies and traps. On their heads the women wore *padded caps that enabled them to carry* heavy wooden pails of cockles to market in Swansea, nine miles away.

Even today, harvesting is an arduous, back-breaking task. Armed only with a rake and sieve, the pickers follow the ebbing tide across the flat *salt marshes of the Burry Inlet* in all weathers and scrape their daily allocation of shellfish from the surface of the estuary sludge.

Many of them then load their catch into vans, which descend on neighbouring valley communities to the accompaniment of ice-cream chimes.

Facilities for washing and boiling the creatures have had to be vastly improved since the fisheries were set up. The Jones family has invested *nearly £300,000 in a factory that* complies with EC hygiene standards. Cannily, they erected the new premises last year during a four-month enforced *embargo on picking following the Sea Empress* oil spillage in Milford Haven.

It was an act of faith, Jones says. "At the time we did not know if we would ever pick cockles again or whether we would be left with the biggest Welshcake factory in the country." Current high *prices — fuelled by an* international demand that ensures 60 per cent of their output goes abroad — more than justifies their speculation.

When, from time to time, stocks *diminish*, says Jones, producers ensure that home orders are given priority. A favour for which this weekend's Cockle Festival devotees should be grateful.

● *The Cockle Festival is held at Swansea Market from Monday until Saturday.*

هكذا من الإصل

Cheesemakers face up to a raw deal

Proposed regulations could sour the dreams of those who run our small dairy farms, reports **Alasdair Riley**

ALAN WELLER

Paxton & Whitfield: more than half its cheese is unpasteurised

Alison Blunt regularly puts in 15-hour days producing goat's cheese at Greenacres Farm in East Sussex

Down in the country, something stirs. At Greenacres Farm in East Sussex, it is Kevin and Alison Blunt paddling vegetarian rennet into the latest yield of 300 litres of milk from their goat herd to start another batch of prize-winning cheese. Gone are the days when every animal had a name. Only Amaretto has a handle now, but she is a bit long in the tooth and past her milking days.

Still, the Blunts have a soft spot for Amaretto. She is the grand-daughter of one of their four original goats when they bought six acres of land just north of Eastbourne 13 years ago. They lived in a mobile home, happily scraping a living selling free-range eggs and a handful of cheeses at the end of their drive. The good life, which got better.

Since then they have gradually expanded to 220 goats, of which 150 are milkers. They have built a house on their land, expanded the barns, added a milking parlour and dairy and rented eight adjoining acres. They now produce 800 logs of Golden Cross goat's cheese and, using local bought-in sheep's milk, 100 squares of Flower Marie every week.

"Life has been good to us," says Mr Blunt who, like his wife, uncomplainingly puts in a 15-hour day, seven days a week, without expecting annual holidays.

"When we started out, we never expected that we would expand to such an extent a dozen years later, making a reasonable living, being our own bosses, doing the job we want with animals who are almost part of the family."

However, something stirs in the world of cheesemaking. Things could turn sour for farmers such as the Blunts who use raw milk to make unpasteurised cheese, if American food health and hygiene proposals gain momentum. American delegates to this month's Washington meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a body run by the World Health Organisation, claim that a series of food poisoning outbreaks in Europe and North America from 1980 to 1985 were caused by cheese that was made from unpasteurised milk. They have tabled a motion to ban raw milk in cheesemaking.

This move would be disastrous for many small cheesemakers, say the Blunts. "Perhaps we could afford several thousands of pounds for a pasteuriser to go that route, but it would take away the whole point of what we do. Our cheese would taste different. Other small cheesemakers might not be able to afford a pasteuriser and would go out of business."

Randolph Hodgson, owner of specialist cheese shop Neal's Yard Dairy in London's Covent Garden, says: "Take away unpasteurised cheese from our range of 50 British and Irish cheeses and I would be left with just three. That's how serious a threat the proposed ban on raw milk cheese is.

"Well produced raw milk cheeses do not need pasteurising. The best way to make cheese is to start with clean, meticulously produced, beautifully flavoured milk, which has been produced on a small scale and which is then used fresh on the farm to make cheese. This is how the world's great cheeses evolved, and this is how the best cheesemakers still choose to make cheese today.

"No one objects to regulations if they are appropriate, but they can be irrelevant for the small cheesemaker. Using pasteurised milk is, in cheesemaking terms, a very recent phenomenon. It became necessary when cheese began to be produced in factories. For such cheeses, milk comes from many sources and it is inevitably of variable quality. It may have travelled long distances in bulk tankers before it is processed, and bulk tankers have been shown to be a major contaminant of milk. So factory cheesemakers need to pasteurise in order to be sure of their milk."

Little wonder that the US proposals were high on the agenda at the past week's British Cheese Awards in London, where more than 500 cheeses were in competition, more than a third of them unpasteurised. Among the judges was Arthur Cunynghame, owner of Paxton & Whitfield, the cheese shop in London's Jermyn Street, now 200 years old. He is also chairman of the Specialist Cheesemakers' Association, which is supporting French resistance to US proposals to ban raw milk cheese.

He says: "The total cheese market in the UK is worth £1 billion annually. In France, unpasteurised cheese accounts for a quarter of the total market, but here it is probably much less than 10 per cent. Even so, unpasteurised cheese is the pinnacle of the cheesemaker's art. Well over half the cheeses at our London shop, and at branches in Bath and Stratford, are unpasteurised. A ban on raw milk cheese would be another blow against quality."

The SCA plans to lobby Codex with its own report, commissioned from Professor Verner Wheelock, leading consultant in food safety and nutrition. He concludes: "The pro-pasteurisation argument is that there have been a few outbreaks of food poisoning linked to cheese made from raw milk, and therefore all milk should be pasteurised for cheese production. But this cannot be substantiated.

"Cheese is rarely involved in outbreaks of food poisoning, as it is a low-risk food. Furthermore, the most frequent factor related outbreaks is post-production contamination."

The last war almost killed off farmhouse cheesemaking, when the authorities decreed that it was more efficient to make cheese in factories. However, there has been a renaissance in British cheesemaking in the past two decades.

"The market continues to expand; every year I sell more and more," says Randolph Hodgson. "The small cheesemaker has enough bureaucratic difficulties as it is, without any further regulations."

> 'A ban on raw milk would be a blow against quality'

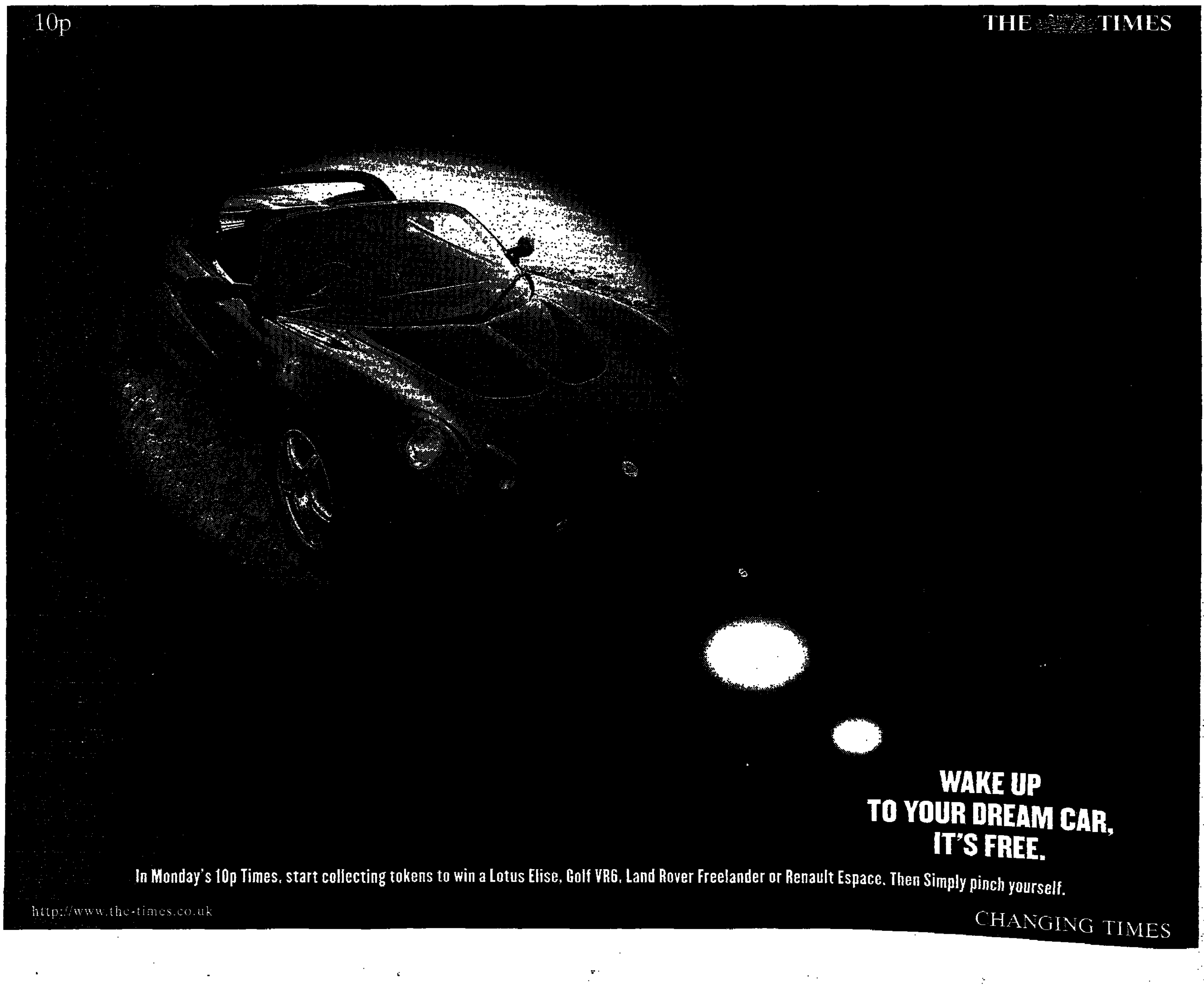
These days it would be impossible for the Blunts of East Sussex to go into business with just a handful of goats. Recent European regulations require them to have suitable accommodation for the animals, and separate milking parlour, cheesemaking dairy and storage. They would need several acres of land, several tens of thousands of pounds and a herd of almost 100 goats to start a commercially viable cheesemaking farm today, they say.

"One farmer told me recently that he would need at least £40,000 to start making cheese commercially," says Mr Cunynghame. "And if he had £40,000, he wouldn't think of making cheese."

For Juliet Harbutt, chairman of the British Cheese Awards, the answer in the debate is simple enough: "So much food today is controlled and standardised and downright pernickety. If cheese is made from raw milk, why not label it and let people decide whether they eat it or not?"

THE BRITISH CHEESE AWARDS

■ **The British Cheese Awards are followed by the British Cheese Festival, with more than 100 retailers nationwide, including many Sainsbury's, Safeway and Tesco supermarkets promoting medal-winning regional cheeses, from Monday until October 19 (information: 0171-371 6466).**



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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

The Party faithful

Ruth Gledhill

joins New Labour for prayers

MORE THAN 500 of the Labour Party faithful had gathered the day before to worship at St Peter's, Brighton, where Tony Blair read the lesson and a Roman Catholic bishop, the Right Rev Cormac Murphy O'Connor, preached. That was the official conference service. A day later, a remnant of true believers, 13 in all, escaped the charismatic field which held nearly all within the aura of their magnetic conference to climb the steep hill to the church of St Nicholas of Myra, the patron saint of fishermen and children, for pre-conference prayers.

The Christian Socialist Movement, organiser of both services, was founded in 1960 but traces its roots back to the 19th century. One Labour Party general secretary has claimed the party owed more to Methodism than to Marx, and the Prime Minister, who along with many in his Government is a committed Christian, has this week been described in rhetorical terms more usually used in connection with preachers and televangelists.

Opening and closing the service was delegate Chris Bryant, author of *Possible Dreams* (Hodder), a history of the CSM, which he chairs. At the party's previous Brighton gatherings, the town's Chapel Royal was used for conference prayers. But few could find the chapel and by contrast St Nicholas, arguably the most beautiful of Brighton's many churches, is an unmissable landmark.

We met behind an iron grille in the charming Lady Chapel, where our worship leader was Stephen Timms, MP for East Ham, who has the voice and appearance of a Tory but is a Christian socialist at heart. He believes politics cannot be off limits to Christians on conscience grounds, quite the reverse in fact.

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

TEAM VICAR: The Rev Derek Moody

ARCHITECTURE: Fourteenth century, restored in 19th. ★★★★

MUSIC & LITURGY: Taizé chant and modern hymn. ★★

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He read from Luke's gospel. "If a woman has ten silver pieces and loses one of them, does she not light the lamp, sweep the house and look in a corner until she's found it? And when she has, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, rejoice with me, I have found the piece I lost." In the same way, the angels rejoiced in heaven over just one sinner who repented, we heard. Mr Timms said: "We are always losing something," he said. "It is good to be reminded that the heart of the gospel is an experience of changing from lost to found, from blind to seeing." And that experience lay at the heart of politics. "We are free to work for the interests of others because we have experienced being able to see again."

We prayed for the Prime Minister and for all those bearing the burden of office. "We pray for those who are seeking to do your will in a world that does not necessarily want them to do your will," said Mr Bryant.

In spite of the contribution made by Christian socialism to the shape of New Labour, the tone of the service was far from triumphalist. After the blessing, the delegates shared experiences of meeting men named *Tony* at the Conference. Afterwards we stood outside enjoying the sunshine, discussing how to overcome the deficiency of being christened with the wrong name for our times.

● *St Nicholas of Myra, Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 (01273 321399).*

The Blairs: devout Christians

Blessed bricks and mortar

Instead of holding a house-warming party, organise a religious ceremony, suggests **Philip Delves Broughton**

Your bed is facing north, aligned with the electromagnetic fields. The wind chimes are tinkling in a wet, autumnal breeze while, inside, the joss sticks smoke and a Swedish massage beckons. Yet somewhere, something is not right with the new place. There remains a feeling of unease, of displacement. Try a blessing.

For all the popularity of feng shui, the ancient Chinese art of sofa placement, straightforward religious blessings of new homes have been uncommon in Britain, often dismissed as shamanistic mumbo jumbo. Led by the non-Christian faiths, however, the house blessing ceremony is becoming as much a part of moving into a new house as calling down curses on the previous inhabitants and their taste in bathroom fittings. It is certainly more dignified than the sweaty-walled, fag-ashed house-warming party.

Nigerian Christian house blessing

Hindus and Sikhs are masters of the form. Moving into a new house requires not only a visit from the local Brahmin but also feasting on a button-popping scale.

Maya Patel, 34, a newsagent in Barnsbury Park, north London, recently moved into a new house with his mother and two sisters. Half an hour of prayers in Gujerati were followed by vegetarian curries for 40 and trayloads of Indian sweets, from lentil banda to grainy orange burfi.

"If it had been just me, I might not have had the blessing," says Patel. "But my mother is a serious Hindu. In India it would have been an even bigger deal."

Dullabhbhai Patel, president of the Shree Sanatan Mandir temple in Leicester, confirms the growing popularity of the blessing: "People are asking for more and more blessings for their new homes or businesses. The ceremony can be performed in just five minutes."

Amandip and Jasbir Uppal, both in their twenties, recently helped their parents move into a new house in Leeds. "The blessing went on for three days with four holy men working a rota of prayer chanting and readings from the Sikh holy book, the Grunsahib," says Amandip. More than 100 friends and relatives called in during the ceremony to offer their prayers and tackle the tables piled high with food. It was hard work requiring weeks of planning and had to take place before any furniture was moved in to the new house.

> 'He went round the house saying prayers for each room'

Christians, then, have some catching up to do. For an Anglican, getting a bishop to come and bless your house would delight the broad hats and jam-makers of the C of E, but a common-or-garden vicar will do.

The Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, displays a pleasing wrist action with the holy water sprinkler and recently blessed the refurbished vicarage of the Rev Gillean Craig, the vicar of St George in the East with St Paul in east London. "He went round the house with holy water saying prayers for each room," says Craig. The kitchen had prayers for happy eating, the bedroom for happy sleeping.

Catholics, particularly the Latin and Irish strains, are keener on the ritual. Father Kieran Conry, a priest in Tooting, south London, has visited a Brazilian woman to bless her new flat and also a Portuguese family. "I would be surprised if an English family asked for it," he says. "But Poles are keen on house blessings."

At the office of the Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Schindler says that interest in house blessings among his congregation at the Muswell Hill synagogue in north London is growing rapidly. The formal ceremony involves the reading of a couple of psalms and passages from the Torah followed by the placing on the front doorpost of the mezuzah, a piece of parchment inscribed with passages from Deuteronomy and put in a small box. "The mezuzah is quite usual in Jewish homes. The house blessing is becoming more popular the more we tell people that the formal ritual exists for it," he says.

With Muslims and Buddhists keeping their rules on house blessings about as loose and easygoing as the belt on a dhoti, it is left to the New Age crazies to fill in the gaps.

Gina Lazenby, who runs the Feng Shui Network from an office deep in the Yorkshire Dales, maintains that the pre-millennial and pop star-inspired boom in spirituality has produced an upsurge in house blessing rituals. "You should do whatever you feel comfortable with," she says.

Her idea of comfort is questionable. "You can clap away the vibrations left by the previous occupants and purify your house with fire, incense or salt. Waxing the door to drive away spirits is quite common, as is ringing a bell in all the rooms to fill them with positive intentions."

However, there may be something to this Lazenby method. After all that bell ringing and clapping, sheer exhaustion should guarantee a good night's sleep — irrespective of your new home's vibrations.

SALLY GREENHILL

Maya Patel, right, at prayer with the Brahmin, left, during the ceremony at his family's new home

Marching as to war no longer

Credo

Nigel McCulloch

It is apt that party conferences take place around Michaelmas. Politically, it is time for rallying the troops. Liturgically, it is the season of angels and the fight in Heaven, described by The Book of Revelation, between the Archangel Michael and the devil.

The language of religion and politics often coincides. Words such as "vision", "mission", "principles", "values" are common examples — as well as the regrettable misuse by politicians of "theological".

But this time of year also highlights a gap between the culture of political parties preparing to battle for policies in which they believe, and the culture of a Christian Church that increasingly eschews the language of battle.

It was not always so. Near my home in Wakefield is the church of St John's, Horbury. There the Victorian clergyman Sabine Baring-Gould wrote, for his Sunday School processions, *Onward Christian Soldiers*. Sung to Sir Arthur Sullivan's magnificent tune, it was for years a favourite ingredient of worship. No more — in ten years I have rarely heard it. Military images and calls to battle are deemed inappropriate for conveying the Christian message.

But such imagery is strongly evident in the New Testament, not least in the sixth chapter of the *Letter to the Ephesians*, with its famous section about donning the spiritual armour of God. Battle imagery is evident, too, in the authorised services of the Church of England, not only in *The Book of Common Prayer*, but also in *The Alternative Service Book*, where the newly baptised are unmistakeably urged to be faithful soldiers and servants, and to "fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil".

Then there is the resounding warning from the *First Letter of St Peter*, whose sonorous words open the delightful evening Office of Compline: "Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith." Pertinent though the point made may be, it is, however, unfashionable to mention the devil.

The result of this political correctness is that major sections of the Christian Church can be thought to have left the fight against the devil to the fundamentalists. This is unfortunate, and untrue. Fighting the evils of poverty on behalf of the powerless in our most deprived areas has been key part of the Church's mission. The recent ecumenical report on *Unemployment and the Future of Work* continues that engagement under the banner of Christ. In such battles, the Church at times finds itself in the role of prophetic and vilified pioneer. At others, it is the encourager and supporter, seeking to interpret the message of Jesus in such passages as *The Sermon on the Mount*.

But there are other battlefields where the trumpet sounds a more muted note. These are in less easily defined areas where the power of evil is undoubtedly present, but where the lines of combat can not be drawn in terms of political agenda. Mainstream Christianity has rightly been careful to resist reducing the faith to a simplistic dualism of battles between good and evil. But, in so doing, it has sometimes appeared to veer away from acknowledging the power of the devil — thereby giving the impression that it has left this battlefield.

Of course, there must be no question about the Church being committed to fighting the social evils that for too long have been allowed to fester. But neither must there be any question about the Church committing itself to the spiritual welfare that it has been in danger of ignoring.

The political climate may, at least for a time, be nearer to a vision and principles of the Church in its mission to value the marginalised. If so, then the Church has a real opportunity to put greater energy into the spiritual battle that confronts us all. And for that there is a very proper biblical and liturgical rallying call: "Soldiers of Christ arise, and put your armour on."

● *The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch is Bishop of Wakefield.*

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Church services tomorrow

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity:

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: *10 HC; 11 S Euch*, Jackson in G; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Neary).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, Whither shall I go (Stewart); 10.30 Euch: 4 Ch E, Canon G Hirst.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch: 3.30 Ch E, Dyson in D, Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M, Rev M McLean; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Nystedt), Rt Rev D Say; 3.15 E, Purcell in B flat; 8.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, , Canon C Levey; 3 E, Harwood in A flat.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch; 6 Ch E, Walmisley in D minor, Canon D Knight.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: *11 Euch*; 2 Informal Concert: 3.30 E, Responses (Rose); 6.30 ES, Canon O Conway.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Locus iste (Bruckner): 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch; 6 E, Purcell in G minor.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch: 3.30 Ch E, *The Gloucester Service* (Howells).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, He that shall endure (Mendelssohn), Rev E Browning: 5 Ch E, Harris in A.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Ireland in C: 2.30 Farmers Harvest Thanksgiving; 6 Ch E, Mr A Flintham.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M: 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Canon M Perry: 3.30 E, Purcell in B flat.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Harvest Festival Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart): 4 Songs of Praise, Praise to God (Campbell), Rev P Owen-Jones.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, *Canon K Parry*: 11.15 M: 3 E, Darke in F: 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Ordination, Canon M Page: 3 E, Sumsion in G.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn): 11.30 M; 3.30 E, Rev A Talbot-Ponsonby.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Stanford in B flat; 3.30 E, Ave Maria (Bruckner).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Jackson in G; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC: 3.45 E, O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), Rev B Gillingham.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling*; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; *8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon P Strange*; 6 Ch E, Noble in A minor.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; 6.30 Ch E, *Let us with a gladsome mind* (Ridout).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 E, Sing we merrily (Symons), Canon R Hanmer; 6.30 Night Prayer.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C, Gloria (How); 11.15 S Euch, O Praise the Lord (Batten), Bishop M Doe; 6.30 E, Murrill in E, The Bishop.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 9.30 Euch, Harris in F; 11.30 Ch Euch, Canon K Punshon; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 World Day of Prayer for Animals Celebration.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow); 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, Dr I Walker; 3.15 E.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Harvest Festival Euch: 11.30 M, Rev J Meyrick; 3 E, Canon J Davies.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Canon J Sinclair; *6.30 Festal E and Sermon. Thou* visitest the earth (Greene).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Canon R Royle: 3 Ch E, Collegium Regale (Wood in F): 6.30 Ch Euch.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn); 3.15 E.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M: 10 S Euch, Schubert in G; 6 E, Harwood in A flat, Canon M Friggens.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G: 4 Ch E, I am persuaded (Bielby), The Provost.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow): 11.30 M, Jubilate (Walton); 3 E, Ven R M C Frith; 7 Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: *8 HC; 10 M*: 11.15 Euch; 3 E, Bring us O Lord God (Harris), Canon R Bomford; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30, 12 Solemn Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn Vespers & Benedition. Beati quorum via integra est (Stanford): 5.30, 7 Solemn Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 10 Euch of Thanksgiving for Harvest, Rev D Prior: 3.30 E, Watson in E.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Rev R Furnell; 11.30 S Euch, Mass in three parts (Byrd): 4 E.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: *Harvest Festival*; 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11 M, Britten in C, Canon Bergquist; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Darke in F, The Dean

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, *Clwyd*: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in E, Rev K Goulstone; 3 Service of Animal Blessing.

ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.30* Euch, 11.15 Ch M, Like as the hart (Howells): 6 Ch E, Murrill in E, The Dean.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Rev R Davey; 11.30 Ch Mass: 3.30 E.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 L Mass; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Fr J Boyle; 6 L Mass.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Cuthbert: 3.30 Ch E, O clap your hands (Vaughan Williams).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Factum est silentium (Dering); 6 ES, Rev R Frazer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3.15 Ch E, Canon M C Kennedy.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, *London*: 8 HC: 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Rt Rev J Taylor: 3.15 E, Prelude and Fugue in D (Bach).

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP: 11 HM, Preb J Gaskell: 5.15 LM: 6 E & B, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9.30, *11.30 HC, Rev Dr J Stott*: *6.30 EP*.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa lauda Sion (Palestrina).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 C, Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 E, *Mr J Watherston*.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 11 LM, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev T *Farrell; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service*, Mr K Costa.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Ave Maria (Mendelssohn): 12.30 Mass; 3.30 Vespers & Benediction: 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, *EC2: 11 MS &* HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL, SW1: 11 MS; 6.30 HC, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), EC2: 11 Ch Euch; 2 Swahili HC; 7 Mass, Rev P D Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, *EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Mass for five* voices (Byrd): 6.30 E, Wood in A flat, The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, *EC4: 11 Ch M, Jubilate* (Sidwell), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Magnificat Nunc Dimittis (Sumsion in G).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11 Harvest Festival and Service of Rededication, Rev J H McIndoe; 6.30 Choral Praise at Harvest Time.

ST ETHELREDA'S, Ely Place: 9, 11 S Mass, Messe Cum Jubilo (Duruflé).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Rev G D Watkins.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine; *5.45 EP*.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 HC, Toccata (Dubois), Rev D Richards: 6.30 EP, Mrs R *Isiodu*.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert: 11.30 Visitors to London Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 10.30 Euch, Weber in G, Rev C Cunliffe.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM; 6 *Solemn E*; 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev J Ovenden: 6 Ch E, Sumsion in G.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Euch, Missa Solemnis (Mozart); 6.30 Healing Service.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, *Three part mass (Byrd)*, Rev W Gulliford.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch: 11 S Euch, Fr W P Keyes.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, *HM Tower of London*: 9.15 HC: 11 M, Jubilate: Chant

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.15 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells)

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Ch Euch; 3.30 E, Locus iste (Bruckner).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Darke in F.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Ave verum corpus (Elgar).

GUARDS CHAPEL, *Wellington Barracks*, SW1: 11 HC, Ave Verum (Gounod).

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Setting (Oldroyd).

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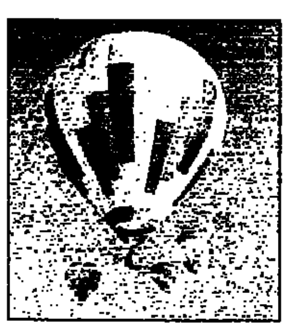
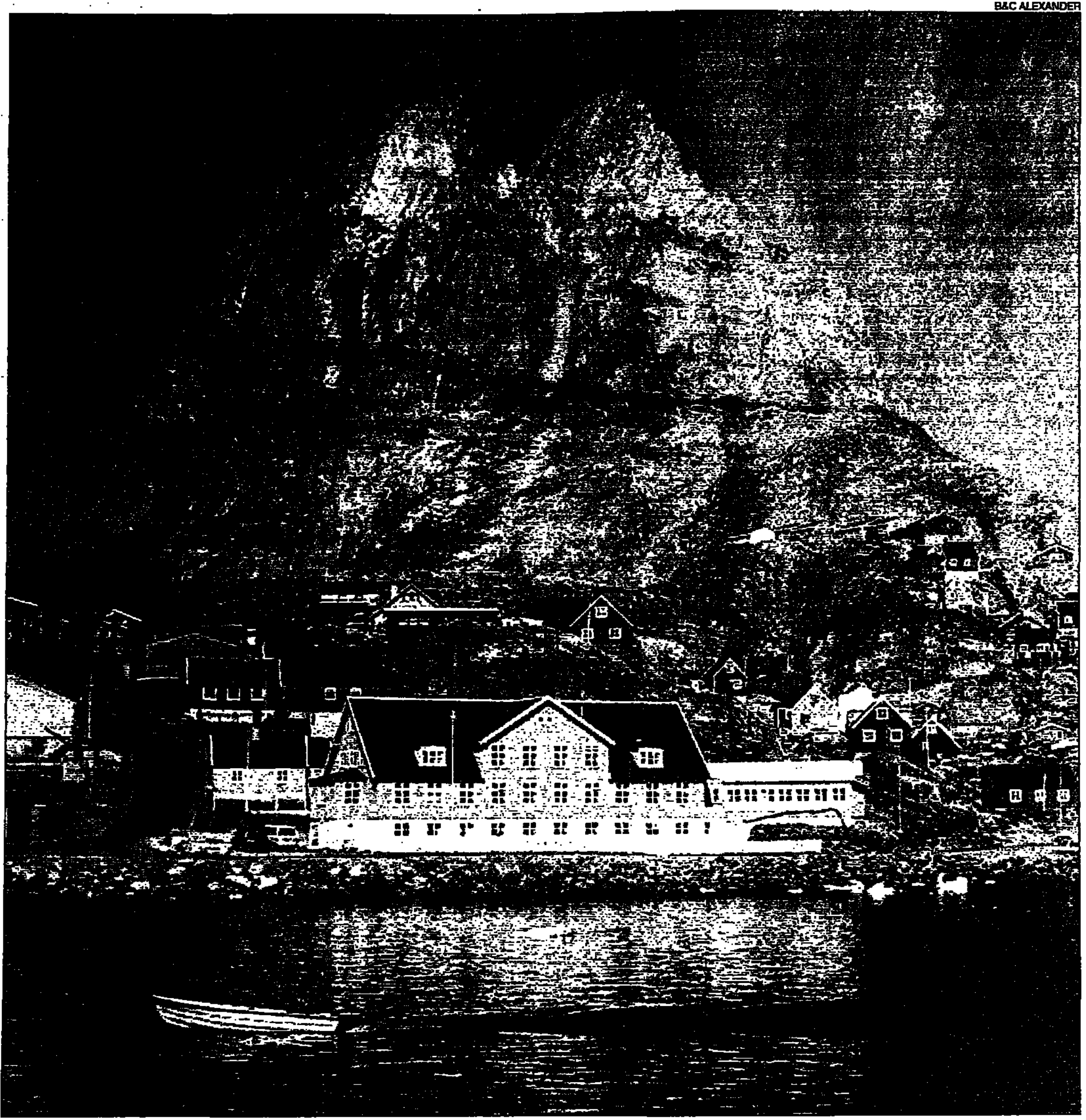


Seal's heart and a feeling for snow in Greenland

Johnny Acton is spellbound by the country that gave us Miss Smilla

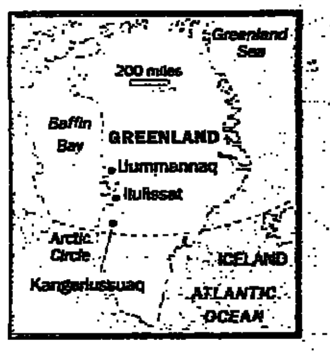
B&C ALEXANDER



"Seal's heart", the Ayers Rock of Greenland, rises above the town of Uummannaq, where sled dogs are said to outnumber humans by two to one

On my third day in Greenland, I sat on the jetty nursing feet written off by some spirited tundra hiking. The others on our tour of the villages surrounding Uummannaq went on an impromptu picnic of dried Fin whale and beer with a splendidly sozzled Inuit vicar who happened to be passing. Impossible icebergs drifted by. Vast mountains, appearing ten times closer than they really were, glistened across the fiord in the preternatural Arctic light, and the sea sparkled invitingly, despite being just a fraction above freezing.

A boat filled with freshly killed seals drew in, and two enormous Inuit matrons set about dissecting them. The good natured souls offered me slices of still-pulsating liver, which I forced down. But this turned out to be the *long* end of the straw. Betty, our guide, was unlucky enough to pitch up as they were handing out the blubber. Being Faroese, she was familiar with whale meat, but seal blubber was too much. She was still green half an hour later.



When Erik The Red founded the first Norse colony here in about 985, he named the country Greenland on the grounds that if he told the truth, no one would come. He neglected to mention that 85 per cent of the place was buried beneath a blanket of ice a mile and a half deep. But despite the best efforts of Erik — who would have made a good estate agent — and the fact that the farming community he founded in the far south survived until the 16th century, Greenland has conspicuously failed to take off as a tourist destination.

All that may be about to change. The first reason for this is that Greenland is a spellbinding place. It doesn't take long to run out of synonyms for "majestic" and "awe-inspiring" when describing this land, but only such words will do.

B&C ALEXANDER

Filleted halibut is the summer diet of the sled dogs

It is the world's second-largest island, after Australia — and a third that continent's size — yet it is home to a population, largely Inuit, of just 57,000, who could squeeze into a Manchester United home game. This does not stop them calling their country Kalaallit Nunaat, meaning "land of the people".

The Inuit are fascinating, with a softly murmured, almost funereal language filled with words of prodigious length. A harpoon contest, for example, appears in the press as: Unammineq naakiarneqqortusaaneq toraajuneqqussaanneq. Though for the most part profoundly tranquil, the Inuit are nonetheless vulnerable to the phenomenon they call *perlerorneq* ("the burden"), violent mood swings which mirror their country's dramatic seasonal changes.

But the biggest spur to Greenland's infant tourist trade may turn out to be the publication and filming of Peter Høeg's best-selling novel *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*. The film, to be released in Britain at the end of this month, tells the story of Smilla Jaspersen, a half-Inuit, half-Danish woman travelling from Copenhagen to the land of her birth on the trail of the murderers of a young Greenlandic boy. The most memorable passages, in which Smilla reminisces about her upbringing, were enough to lure me to the top of the world. What kind of place could it be where the winters are savage enough to force women to crouch over Primus stoves as they pee?

As we flew north from the abandoned American airbase of Kangerlussuaq, by aircraft, and then by low-flying helicopter, it became clear what Greenland is all about — primal nature, on the grandest scale, with not one trace of human activity for mile after endless mile. In *Miss Smilla*, the heroine relates that the Greenlandic version of Hell consists of being eternally locked in a small room. Looking at the ancient landscape below, with its overwhelming sense of space and silence, I could begin to see why.

The spell was broken, but only slightly, on our arrival at Uummannaq, 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle. This was chiefly due to the mournful howling of the town's sled dogs, which outnumber the human population of about 1,300 by two to one.

The first impression of Uummannaq was of a pleasingly higgledy-piggledy collection of brightly painted wooden houses cropping up wherever the rocky terrain would allow them, rising steeply towards the stunning red gneiss monolith which dominates the town.

The Inuit name for this mountain, the Ayers Rock of the Arctic, translates as "seal's heart". Nothing could better describe its shape, and by the time I left I was acquainted with pinniped offal enough to know. The next surprise was that the place was heaving with cars, which might be thought superfluous in a nation with no connecting roads between towns. Until, that is, you learn that for six months of the year the surrounding seas freeze so solidly that you can drive on them.

The Hotel Uummannaq (the most northerly in the country) was a comfortable affair, constructed of pine and furnished with Scandinavian minimalism. But despite the lengthy journey, I was itching to explore the town. Though lean in terms of conventional sights, this turned out to be a rewarding experience. I learnt, for example, that while the shops had run out of potatoes, they were well stocked with mangoes and Danish porn videos. There was a charming granite church, a couple of old-style peat and stone igloos, and everywhere filleted halibut (the mainstay of the economy and the summer diet of the dogs) grinning grotesquely as they dried in the sun.

But it became apparent that the main activity in Uummannaq is simply hanging out. This was no hardship, with the summer temperature a balmy 8C, and the air so good that it seemed more like food than gas. I spent the next four days engaged in nothing more complicated than the contemplation of icebergs drifting in the beautiful fiord.

The major excursion during my stay in Uummannaq was a boat trip to the haunting ruins of an ancient Eskimo settlement, with stops at various villages, including the one with the seals. One evening we trudged to the top of the town to visit the local policeman, Tobias, and his serene wife Elizabeth.

Their home had the sort of modern appliances you could find anywhere — video recorder, microwave — but the view of icy peaks from the window was startling. At our request he put on his formidable winter hunting garb and told us of his recent trip to Denmark. "Too many trees," was his verdict (there aren't any in Greenland). "No icebergs."

The following evening, I braved the village bar, which was predictably raucous, given the national alcohol problem. It was no surprise to see the giant Danish miner from the hotel propping up the bar. He had been drunk enough at dinner to fall asleep with his face literally in his plate.

More unusual was the Inuit next to me, who bawled, "Oi lav the Cockney English," in a perfect imitation. "I know Kevin Keegan and the Beatles," he added, somewhat implausibly, before revealing that, with this exchange, he had exhausted his grasp on the language.

The hard drinking is perhaps understandable in a country where life can be very harsh. I took an overnight boat trip to Ilulissat, home of the biggest glacier in the northern hemisphere. The boat was half-filled with village soccer teams, heading for one of the world's more bizarre tournaments (they tackled like assassins), and chanting Greenlandic variants of "Here we go, here we go, here we go".

Ilulissat turned out to be less wild than Uummannaq, but the locals had recently been reminded of the hardness of their life in these climes. The previous week, a kayaker had been drowned by a toppling iceberg, and the four-year-old son of the local doctor had been killed and eaten by sled dogs whose owner had failed to feed or tie them up properly. But what the town shared with its northerly neighbour, and with everywhere I visited in Greenland, was its ability to leave the visitor thrilled simply to be there.

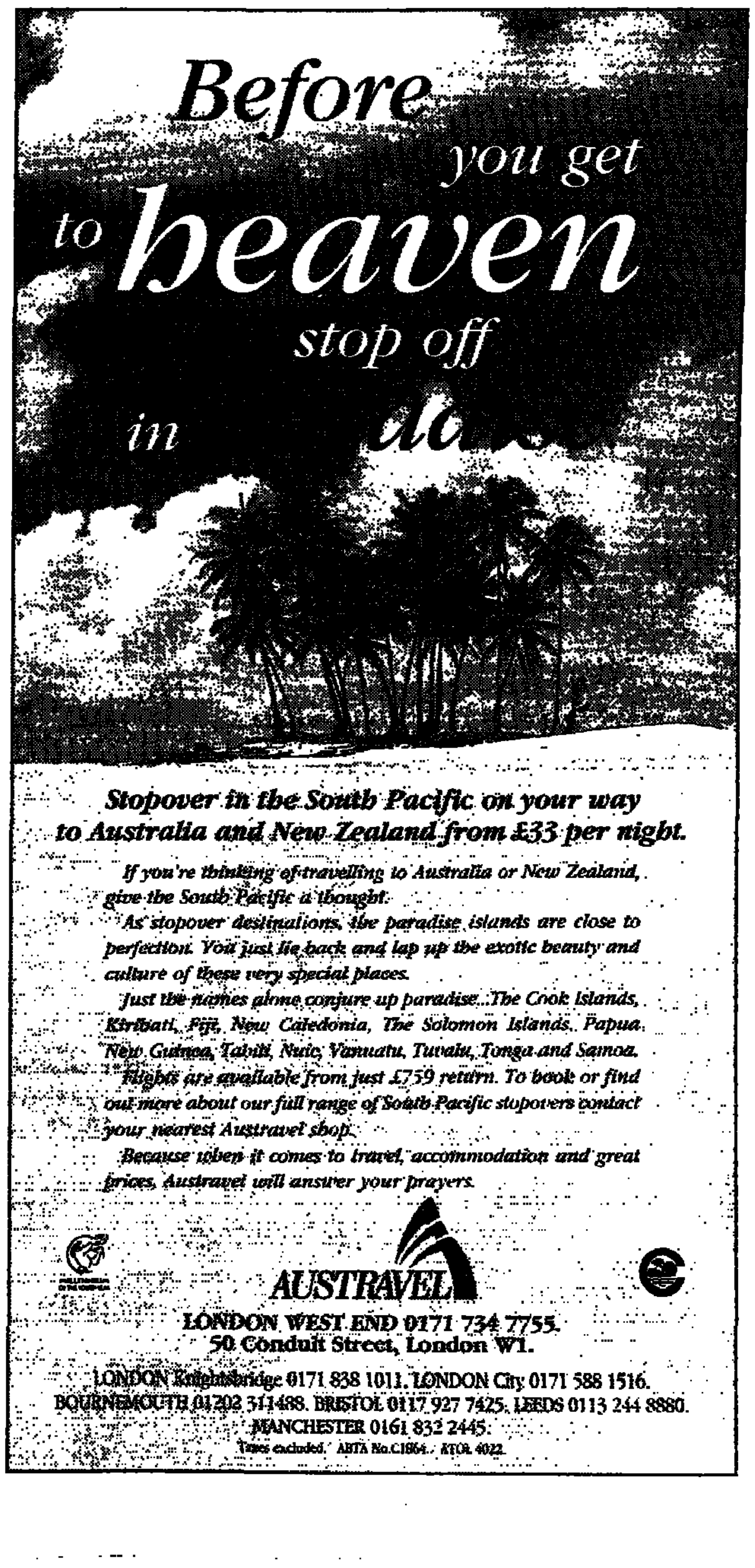
GREENLAND FACT FILE

- **Getting there:** There are no direct flights from the UK but SAS (0171-734 4020) operates via Copenhagen: prices to Sondre Strømsjörd on the west coast are £601 return. Icelandair (0171-388 5599) flies via Reykjavik: current prices to Kulusuk are £343 return. Greenland Air has no UK office — book through a travel agent for flights from Copenhagen and internal travel.
- **Who goes there:** Arctic Experience (01737 218801) and Copenhagen-based Arctic Adventure (00 45 3313 1011) both operate year-round, but with most customers travelling between March and September. The former has 10-day tours covering three east coast towns from £1,484 per person, including three nights in Iceland. Other operators include Scantours (0171-839 2927), Arcturus Expeditions (01389 830204) and Mountain and Wildlife Ventures (01539 433285), which can offer tailor-made flight and hotel packages for groups of six or more planning their own expeditions, but does not arrange tours on the ground.

- Johnny Acton bought his "Top of the World" package with Regent Tours (01983 864212), available from mid-June to mid-September. Brochures for 1998 will be out by the end of this month. A sample itinerary might include flights to Kangerlussuaq, with a night en route at a hotel in Copenhagen, all internal flights, four nights in Uummannaq, overnight cruise to Ilulissat in a shared cabin, and two nights in Ilulissat's excellent *Hotel Arctic*.

  In 1997 this package cost £2,178 half-board, which is based on shared accommodation, and Regent expects next year's prices to rise by about five per cent.

  While independent travel in West Greenland is possible, it is recommended only for the hardier traveller, owing to the complex logistics involved and the threat of any independent itinerary being disrupted by the country's capricious weather.
- **When to visit:** High season in Greenland runs from late June to the end of August. During this period, temperatures typically range from 5C to 10C, high enough to support a voracious mosquito population, against which the visitor *should* come forearmed. Winters are predictably savage, with temperatures down to -40C in the north. But winters are also beautiful and offer the possibilities, particularly in March and April, of dog-sledding trips (approximately £100-£150 per person per day) and of experiencing the Northern Lights (which are also visible from late August to early November). Arctic Experience does not advise travel between October and February. Visitors could be stuck for weeks, said a spokeswoman.
- **What to take:** Layers of clothing and waterproofs. Gloves, hat, walking boots, daypack, mosquito repellent, sunglasses, a camera.
- **Reading:** *Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands* (Lonely Planet, £12.99) is the pick of the guidebooks. *Iceland and Greenland* (Country Traveller Visitor's Guide, £10.99) has a short section on Greenland. *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* by Peter Høeg (Harvill, £6.99). *The Last Kings of Thule*, by Jean Malaurie (out of print but available from public libraries) is a splendid study of the Inuit.
- **Danish Tourist Board:** 0171-259 5958.



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Tunisia: a hot air balloon over the Sahara is the best way to see the country, writes **Carolle Doyle** . . .

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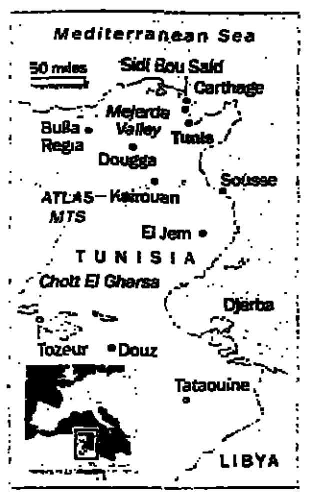
Hot-air balloons prepare for lift-off from Douz, an oasis town on the edge of the Sahara. From the basket, the desert scenery of dunes, palm trees and camels slowly unfolds



FACT FILE

- Carolle Doyle travelled with the Tunisian National Tourist Office (0171-224 5561).
- An eight-day balloon expedition with Aeroasis costs £1,350 per person and includes seven nights full board, a four-wheel-drive vehicle and driver, five balloon flights and two nights desert camping.

  A five-day expedition costs £950 per person and includes four nights full board, vehicle and driver, two balloon flights and one night's camping.

  For the first time, non-balloonists can join the Sixth Annual Montgolfiades of Tunisia, a 14-day balloon rally, on November 12-28. There are spaces for 20 people to join balloons flying from Tunis to the Sahara. *The cost of £1,490 includes* at least five flights, accommodation and transfers but excludes flights.
- For details of expeditions and the Montgolfiades, contact Aeroasis, Centre Dorra Esc. A No 8, El Manar 3, 2092 Tunis. Tel 00 216 188 9401 Fax: 00 216 188 7477. In the UK, call 0181 960 6102 for details.

From the wicker basket of the hot-air balloon, the desert scenery of dunes and palm trees, camels and Berbers unrolled as slowly as a hand-cranked diorama. The Sahara stretched into the distance and beneath us, our four-wheel-drive Toyota retrieve vehicle breasted each dune as we sailed majestically on.

I rested my elbows on the side of the basket, cupped my chin in my hands and marvelled at the stillness of the air. We seemed to be suspended, motionless, above the Earth while it revolved slowly beneath us. We were, of course, travelling with the wind, not through it, and therein lies the joy of balloon flight.

We went wherever the wind took us, enjoying an Olympian view of the mountains and oases, villages and towns that make up Tunisia's fascinating southlands. That is, of course, until our pilot, Jean Marc Caron, pointed down. That Olympian feeling was about to end with a bump. After three flights we were all veterans, as we held on to the rope handles and bent our knees in accordance with instructions. Jean Marc pulled the rip cord to deflate our bag of air and the basket slid merrily along the ground for a few feet before coming to a halt. We had arrived. Exactly where was of no importance.

The week-long hot-air balloon expedition, taking eight passengers, one pilot and three crew, had begun on the *island of Djerba, just off the* Tunisian coast, where we spent a night relaxing and being briefed on the flight the following morning.

For this, we drove to a launch site outside Tataouine, in *southern Tunisia*, and sailed over the Atlas Mountains. The sun rose with the balloon, warming the rock until the mountain ridge beneath us glowed rose and ochre, gold and violet. Annie, beside me, pointed to the shadow of the balloon, a perfect silhouette against the mountainside. We watched our shadow chase us across the mountains before lying defeated on the valley floor.

The balloon was gliding down towards Tataouine, floating over its whitewashed houses at a few hundred feet so that the life of the town was laid out for our inspection in the morning sun. Every courtyard was stuffed with frantic goats and sheep and waving children. We passed over the government offices and everyone came out and waved as that invisible thread which binds balloonists to spectators ran between us.

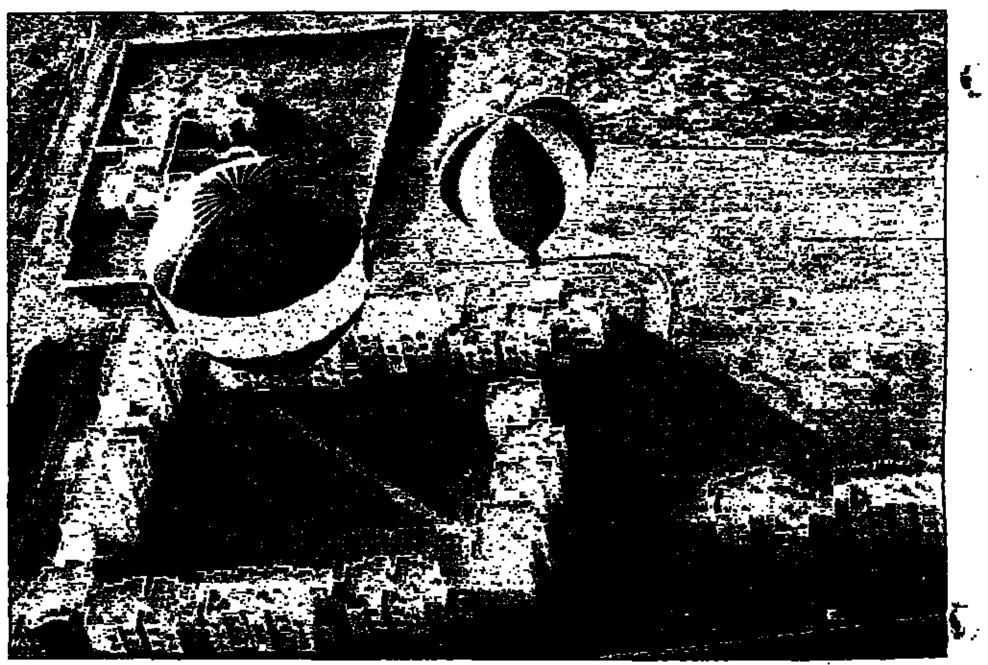
We flew on over the summer huts of the Berbers — the indigenous tribe of north Africa — which were surrounded by goats and camels. A fox streaked away from our shadow as we prepared to land near a rough track that snaked its way across the scrub. The basket had hardly settled among the brittle Mediterranean shrubs before our retrieve crew bounced into view. It was just past 8am. Balloons fly with the dawn and in the evening when the air is at its calmest, and as we headed back to the hotel I realised that we would still be in time for breakfast.

One night we camped in a Bedouin tent. As we sat around a campfire and drank champagne, Jean Marc came up with a special effect that would have done Hollywood proud. A balloon glow is a beautiful sight: the burners were lit and the yellow and red balloon lit up like a giant lightbulb. We raised our champagne glasses and the bubbles sparkled in the light.

For every idyllic flight over the Sahara, there is always a retrieve, and with retrieves there is the hazard of getting bogged down in sand. It adds a certain zest to the day. We experienced that sinking feeling as the trailer, with its half-ton weight of gas cylinders, basket and fabric, sank up to its axles. The team spirit and a certain rivalry erupted among the men, who recognised a challenge when they saw one.

The expedition moved on to Douz, another oasis town on the edge of the Sahara. It has the air of a western frontier town due, I think, to the effect of rows of camels waiting to take tourists on a desert trek. We lunched at the El Mouradi, with many a sideways glance at Claudia Cardinale who was also dining there. The hotel, like every other that we stayed at, was new, boasting swimming pools and a grand lobby — all this on the edge of the desert.

At Tozeur new hotels line the streets which radiate from the old medina. It was only from the air that we saw the true nature of this oasis, with its 200,000 palm trees. This was our last flight but not, happily, the end of the expedition. After breakfast we set off for the Chott El Gharsa, a dried up salt lake whose crystalline surface shimmers in the light: it was the first time I had seen a mirage. We drove into the mountains where springs bubble out of the rocks to feed the oases swarming at their feet. I walked in an oasis garden where pomegranates grow under the palms, and for once I was glad I had my feet on the ground.


Balloons sail over Nefta: the life of the town is laid out for inspection

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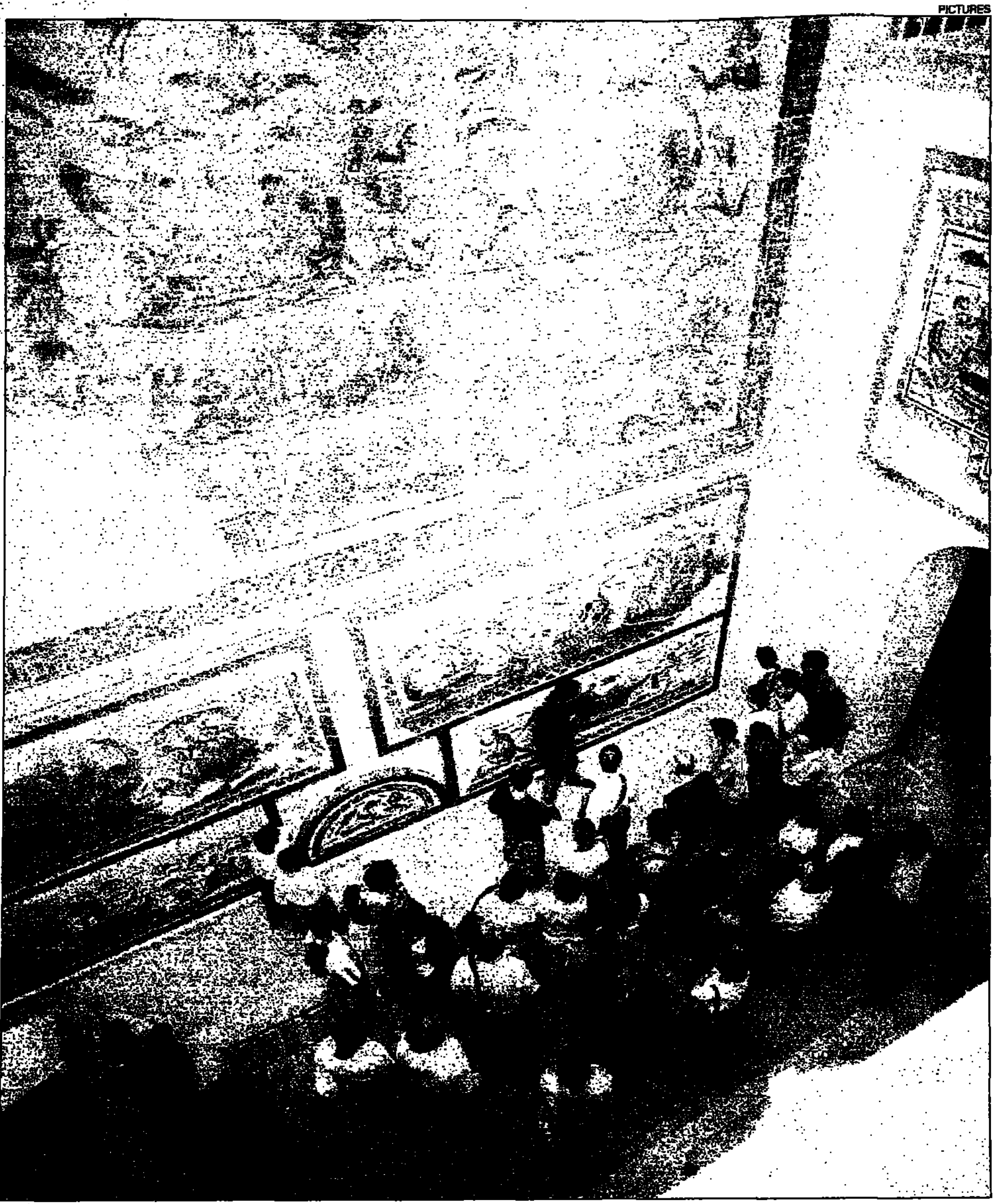
... while **Jeremy Seal** immerses himself in the mosaics and monuments of the area's Roman legacy

'Where walls have ears (and more)

WORLD PICTURES

The magnificent coliseum at El Jem where gladiators battled


PICTURES

One of the best collections of Roman mosaics in existence can be found in the the Bardo National Museum on the outskirts of Tunis

Last year, a Tunisian workman extending the foyer at the Carthage Museum struck something unforgiving with his spade. It proved to be the head of an 8ft marble Apollo, buried deep in history's rubble. Keeping his head down was a wise move on this statue's part; for centuries, successive civilisations — Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs and Ottomans — regarded the country's Roman heritage as little more than handy depots of highly exploitable, pre-cut building blocks.

Today's visitors to this beguiling North African and Mediterranean country, however, come to wonder rather than plunder. Around the Carthage Museum foyer a cavern has been carefully excavated so that visitors can admire Apollo — who might have ended up as hardcore in other times — *in situ*, with the help of artfully angled mirrors. Increasingly, the Tunisian authorities are appreciating the value of the country's Roman remains, not least as tourist attractions.

For the most part, Britain's 250,000 annual holidaymakers to Tunisia regard the country as a sun 'n' Sahara destination, but many visit at least one of the more accessible archaeological sites during their stay. Imperial Carthage, just north of the modern capital, Tunis, and the magnificent coliseum at El Jem an hour inland from the resort city of Sousse — where visitors dream of gladiators doing battle and of Christians being fed to the lions — are the most popular choices for day trips. There is, of course, much more. Dr Nejib BenLazreg, an archaeologist at Tunisia's National Heritage Institute, says: "Inch for inch, Tunisia has one of the highest densities of Roman settlements anywhere in the world, with at least 500 major sites."

> 'Tunisia has one of the highest densities of Roman settlements anywhere in the world'

Visitors wishing to do more than scratch the country's Roman surface prompted Tunisia operators Wigmore Holidays to launch a specialist archaeology programme three years ago.

Our visit began at the Bardo National Museum on the outskirts of Tunis, which houses one of the best collections of Roman mosaics in existence. Magnificent in their own right, the mosaics evoke a 1,700-year-old society with an intensity, colour and humanity that puts the average museum's introductory video presentation to shame. Here are country scenes, all edged with fruit and vine leaves, of children drawing water from a well, of hunting and fishing, and of women collecting mushrooms in winter. There is city life, too; one mosaic details the chaotic building site of a church under construction. At the hippodrome, during the chariot racing, an officer holds out an amphora of wine to the winner in the manner of a Formula One champagne presentation.

Visiting nearby Carthage next, with these remarkable images fresh in our mind, made more than just geographical sense; your imagination should not expect much on-site assistance at Carthage, which has been plundered more extensively than any other Roman settlement in Tunisia. What remains jostles for space with Tunis's expanding suburbs, but visitors from Tunis on the cheap an regular TGM light railway at least have a choice of six stops serving the sites.

Most impressive are the Antonine Baths, a pampering complex *par excellence* with a handsome setting on the Bay of Tunis, and the atmospheric Tophet, a pagan cemetery for sacrificial victims, both animals and children, that is overgrown with nasturtiums and purple-flowering caper plants.

After Carthage, we retreated to Sidi Bou Said, the gorgeous blue and white, jasmine-clad hilltop village that was established as Tunisia's favoured bohemian haunt in the early years of the century. Weekend crowds were promenading, and stopping for *bonbalouni*, the much-loved Tunisian doughnut. At the famed Café des Nattes — where early this century a British traveller sent back a cup of coffee because it had a scorpion floating in it; he then downed what he thought was a fresh cup only to find the same scorpion at the bottom — we drank tea with pine nuts (*thé aux pignons*) without incident.

We drove along the green Mejerda Valley, through fields of wheat, olive groves and vineyards that defied our arid expectations, while clouds of swifts divebombed our minibus. Workmen in red felt fezzes laboured at the roadside. "The area was Rome's granary," said Dr BenLazreg, whose informative commentary bore no resemblance to the usual spiels. At Dougga, which is remote enough to have been spared widespread plundering, we wandered among the excellently preserved theatre, the forum and baths, the shops and even the 12 public toilets arranged around three sides of a square.

At Bulla Regia, we stood in the extensive basements of the villas that were designed to offer refuge from the fierce summer heat, marvelling at the immaculately preserved mosaics — Venus surrounded by dolphins, a bloody scrap between a lion and panther.

On the road inland, we passed poppy fields and old men selling freshly baked bread, capers and almonds. Outside butchers' shops, toy camels were hung in poorish taste to signify the produce within. "*Delicieux*!" exclaimed a butcher, kissing his fingers, when I asked how camel tasted. At Kairouan, Tunisia's holiest city, the great 9th-century mosque reared above the town. In its monumental courtyard, blocks inscribed with Roman script were visible in the walls.

The mosque, we were told, also contained 425 Corinthian columns filched from Roman sites all over Tunisia. The idea that *Tunisia's* holiest mosque was supported by pillars from pagan temples imbued the great building with a wonderfully ironic impurity.

In that memorable archaeological notion — of building blocks tumbling down the ages to serve in a succession of buildings dedicated to different gods and masters — we were left with an abiding sense of Tunisia's rich and varied history.

ARCHAEOLOGY FACT FILE

■ Jeremy Seal travelled with *Wigmore Holidays* (0171-486 4425) on its Aspects of Roman Tunisia archaeological tour. Wigmore has two archaeology holidays this winter — November 14-18 (based in Hammamet, £489 per person) and February 15-22 (based in Hammamet and Sousse, £595 per person). The price includes half-board accommodation in four-star hotels, the services of a lecturer and return flights from Heathrow. Tours can be extended from £20 per person per night, half board. Wigmore does not charge a single supplement.

The company also offers specialist seven-day adventure tours, with five *days spent in the desert, for £629 per person, including return flights from* Heathrow. The desert tour is in an air-conditioned four-wheel drive vehicle and includes visits to ksour (fortified granaries) and troglodyte villages, as well as the oasis towns of Douz and Tozeur. Birdwatching holidays at Lake Ichkeul and Cap Bon as well as painting holidays based in Tunis and Sidi Bou Said are also available.

■ The Bardo National Museum is open daily from 9am-4.30pm. Admission is three dinars.

■ *Books on the subject: The Cadogan Guide* (£12.99), excellent architectural coverage; *The Rough Guide to Tunisia* (£10.99); *The Tunisia Handbook* by Anne and Keith McLachlan (Footprint Handbooks, £10.99); *Blue Guide Tunisia* (£11.99).

NOW BOARDING

TUNISIA

■ **Who goes there:** Beach babes and *English Patient* fans.

■ **Getting the ball rolling:** Tunisian National Tourist Office, 77a Wigmore St, London W1H 9LJ (0171-224 5561) sends general brochures — do request *a list of tour operators* and airlines.

■ **Perfect timing:** Autumn: high temperatures, low rainfall and dropping air fares. Flights: Cheap Nov-Mar, expensive Jul-Aug/Christmas.

■ **Suitcase strategy:** Take out Western cigarettes, hat and warm clothes for the desert. Bring back pottery (weighs a ton), fresh dates, natural cosmetics.

■ **The pound in your pocket:** *1.7 dinars = £1, bought in* Tunisia at fixed rate. Keep foreign exchange receipts — only a limited amount can be changed back when you leave. Sterling travellers' cheques are useful. Tips: 10-15 per cent. Expect to pay £1 for a large beer and £8 for a three-course meal with wine.

■ **Turn of phrase:** Arabic and French universally spoken. Watch out for "bukra", meaning "tomorrow", which has the same urgency as "mañana, mañana".

■ **Big no-nos:** Don't wear hot pants to the mosque. Otherwise Tunisia is probably the most laid-back Arab country on earth. Even toplessness on resort beaches is OK.

■ **Nasty surprises:** Car hire: expect to pay £300 per week. Ramadan — the Muslim fasting month — is in early January, but rarely affects tourists.

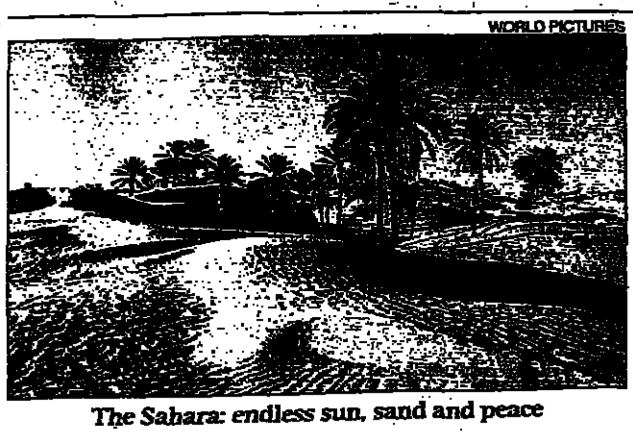
■ **Not to be missed:** The desert. The souk. The jokes about Colonel Gaddafi next door.

■ **Way to go:** Flights to Tunis Carthage this month: **GB Airways** (0345 222111, through BA) flying midweek, £205.60; at weekends £232.60 inc tax, from Gatwick; **Tunis Air** (0171-734 7644) £232.40 inc tax from Heathrow. Flight time: 2.5 hours.

■ **Any good packages?** Suntours (0171-434 3636) has seven nights' B&B in a three-star hotel in Hammamet, flying from Gatwick on October 24 or 31: £239 per person. **Wigmore Holidays** (0171-486 4425) has a 14-night Saharan Adventure/Jerba Beach for £769, including most meals, leaving Heathrow on October 14 or Gatwick on October 15.

■ **Dull but essential:** No visa needed for British passport holders staying less than three months. No jabs required.

SOPHIE CAMPBELL


WORLD PICTURES

The Sahara: endless sun, sand and peace

On the trail of an Oscar winner in Tunisia's desert

■ **Panorama** (01273 206531) offers four and eight-day desert safaris that take in film locations from *The English Patient*, winner of nine Oscars, including Best Film, at this year's Academy Awards.

The eight-day safari, available between November and April, starts at £425 per person. Alternatively, Panorama offers a two-week painting holiday in Hammamet and the Sahara next April from £699 per person.

There is also a one-week sequence dancing holiday in January, with instruction and dancing in the evenings at the Hotel Sol Azur in Hammamet: prices from £289 per person, half-board.

In addition, there is a week-long Scrabble holiday on offer in Hammamet departing on November 23. *The cost is from* £290 half-board.

■ Day trips to Tunis, Medina *and the ruins at Carthage* are available during holidays in Port el Kantaoui, which is seven miles north along the coast from Sousse, with **Thomson** (0990 329300).

A seven-night, half-board stay at a four-star hotel, departing on December 13, costs £219, based on two sharing a twin room. Flights are from Gatwick or Birmingham. Day trips to Carthage cost approximately £31.

■ Visit the Roman amphitheatre at El Jerid — which formed the backdrop for scenes in the film *Star Wars* — on a holiday based in Port el Kantaoui organised by **Sunworld** (0990 550440).

A week's half-board at a three-star hotel costs from £169 per person for departures December 8-20 — charter flights from Gatwick included.

The excursion to El Jem is part of an optional two-day coach safari on offer — costing £70 — which also takes in a visit to the salt lake at El Jerid, the eastern Sahara, and underground homes inhabited by the Berbers, an isolated community with its own language, which makes up about *one per cent of the Tunisian* population.

■ Other operators who are currently offering Tunisian holidays include Airtours (01706 260000), Cadogan Holidays (01703 332661) and Cosmos (0161-480 5799).

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With hand on heart, there are few places left in the Mediterranean which we can truly describe as 'untouched'. Northern Cyprus certainly falls into this category. Although there has been some hotel development in the past couple of years, the country still possesses a wonderfully tranquil and peaceful atmosphere, such as could be found on most Mediterranean islands some forty years ago.
In addition to its great natural beauty Northern Cyprus is steeped in history. Each period has left its mark, evident in the Greek and Roman sites, the monasteries, and the Byzantine churches. Perhaps best known of all, the Crusader Castles which perch high on mountain ledges.
Our week long visits to Northern Cyprus have been arranged during the winter, when the weather is ideal for touring and exploring. The months of November and March offer particularly fine weather and daytime temperatures are often in the low-seventies. The mid-winter months are cooler, but even in January it is surprisingly mild with temperatures often reaching the low and mid sixties.
Such weather is glorious for visiting the ancient sites. Salamis, a one time capital is especially worthwhile as is the old walled city of Famagusta, the 5th century BC palace of Vouni, and the ruins of Soli, a Hellenistic and Roman city. Drive up into the mountains to see the fairy-tale Kantara Castle. It was mentioned at the time of Richard Coeur de Lion's short stay on the way to the Crusades in 1191.

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Skiing: to kick off the new season, our ski correspondent gives a personal guide to his top ten resorts . . .

Time to book up for the snow show

DOUG SAGER

THE approach of winter has never been so welcome. Conditions are so favourable this year that the number of British skiers and snowboarders could break the one million barrier.

Sterling continues to do well against Alpine currencies, and that means bargains, both in resorts and on travel packages. Crystal claims savings of as much as £300 per couple on certain holidays. Thomson has announced £50 per head price cuts on selected Christmas chalets. Holidaymakers have more choice than ever. There are more than 100 new resorts, including Lapland, Georgia and the former Yugoslavia. Non-stop charters to Denver have been introduced, supplementing existing North American charters to Vancouver and Calgary. And there are more flights to the Alps from an increased number of UK regional airports: 15 with Crystal, 14 with Inghams and 11 with Thomson.

Resorts are doing their bit, too. Many are offering more generous ski pass structures, typically allowing you to ski on six out of eight days instead of the stricter six out of six days. There are also new reductions for "young adults", often with the age limit at 20 rather than 16.

However, this good news comes at a cost. Travel agents warn that waves of early bookings mean there will be no last-minute bargains. The most desirable chalets in the most popular resorts are likely to be fully booked already for peak periods. Switzerland — where the currency has most dramatically improved against the pound — leads Europe in renewed interest. Crystal has added six Swiss resorts and Thomson reports Swiss bookings up a phenomenal 270 per cent. American bookings are up 500 per cent with Thomson. However, Italy's popularity of the past few seasons looks like running out of steam, the lira having improved least against the pound.

This season's sudden enthusiasm is not just about money. Snowboarding, at its peak, has injected youth appeal. The dramatic new ski shapes that have appeared over recent years — wide body and parabolic — are unprecedentedly user-friendly, extending a skier's career by a decade and allowing intermediates to ski like experts. Lightweight, oven-fitted Thermoflex boot liners have kicked cold feet out of the door for ever. Synthetic fabrics layered from under to outer wear mean that only fools in wool and cotton need feel cold or wet.

What more could any skier or snowboarder ask? Well, according to the unscientific mutterings drifting across the Internet, the El Niño ocean warming phenomenon will blanket the Alps and America in snow.

MARK JUNA

It's downhill all the way: nothing beats the thrill of being one of the first to ski through fresh snow — and conditions look set to be the best for years

From resorts new to the brochures this season to old favourites, Doug Sager, *The Times* ski correspondent, picks the ten areas that most impressed him over 100 days of skiing and some 25,000 miles of travel last winter.

■ ALYESKA, ALASKA

We climb up through hip-deep snow. A ski patrol quizzes us on our ability and our acceptance of risk. Alyeska has deep snow and steep chutes — two turns wide and don't-look-down long. No resort in America allows such radical skiing within boundaries — or is so safety-conscious about doing so. Alyeska is a family holiday, too. The Japanese-owned Alyeska Prince hotel has a sushi evening that is pure theatre. At night you can ski under the Northern Lights, on groomed pistes of easy intermediate standard. Excursions by taxi-plane or dog sled to wilderness glacier lakes are breathtaking. The Chugach mountains make the Matterhorn look like a molehill.

☐ *Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144) is the only tour operator featuring Alyeska.*

■ STE FOY, FRANCE

An oasis of calm in the overdeveloped Tarentaise, just 20 minutes from Val d'Isère, Ste Foy has groomed slopes ideal for children as well as ambitious off-piste tours. Yellowstone Chalet is the loveliest in the Alps and is introduced to British skiers for the first time. Yellowstone was built, in rare Douglas fir, two years ago by Nancy and Jean-Claude Tabardel as their private home.

☐ *The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) has the only accommodation in Ste Foy.*

■ ALAGNA, ITALY

After abseiling down its couloirs and an afternoon assisting in a frightening crevasse rescue, I agree with Italians who insist that Alagna is *solo per gli esperti* (only for experts). Accommodation is limited, as is lift capacity. But off-piste glacier terrain is seemingly limitless, groomed piste skiing virtually non-existent. For adventure skiers, accompanied by certified mountain guides, Alagna is a paradise of risks and rewards, eclipsing La Grave.

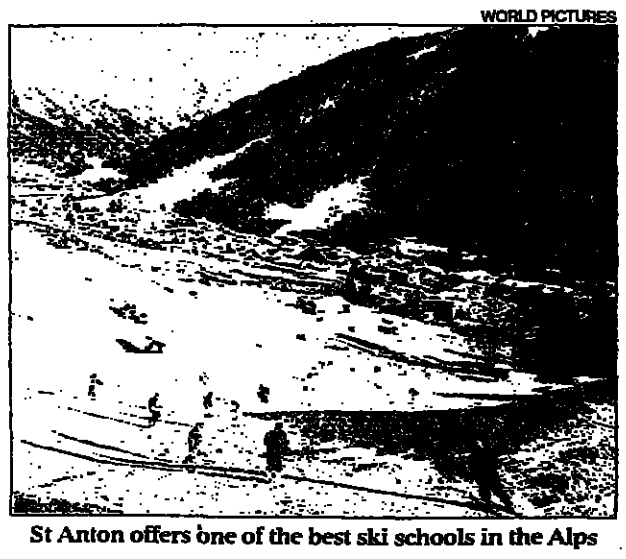
☐ *Ski Weekend (01367 241636) conducts off-piste tours with experienced mountain guides. Crystal introduces Alagna to its brochure this winter.*

■ VAUJANY, FRANCE

Imagine elderly peasants inviting you into their kitchens, *eau de cow* redolent in the morning air, and ceroc après-ski. Nigel Purkhardt of Ski Peak discovered this hamlet, with its 160-person cable car uplink to Alpe d'Huez, and developed it singlehanded, by building cottages to top chalet standard, refurbishing a hotel and bar, and creating a price-conscious family retreat in a charming atmosphere where the English outnumber but do not overwhelm the natives.

☐ *Ski Peak (01252 794941) has long been the only firm in Vaujany, but this winter Erna Low (0171-584 2841) has some self-catering flats.*

WORLD PICTURES



St Anton offers one of the best ski schools in the Alps

■ VERBIER, SWITZERLAND

Verbier deserves top marks for "most improved resort". Grooming standards and signposting are now in the premier league, added to the best lift-served off-piste skiing in the Alps. Last year Verbier was the only resort in Europe to cut ski-pass prices. Things should be even better next year (1998-99) when it promises a new lift at Tortin, which will supposedly take 1,400 people an hour.

☐ *Of the 22 operators featuring Verbier, I favour Ski Verbier (0171-738 0878), an unbonded but locally based company with an unbeatable mix of fine cuisine, luxury chalets and reasonable prices. But remember that your money is not protected if an unbonded company gets into trouble. Flexiski (0171-352 0044) is the best for flexible packages, from a few days to a few weeks.*

■ ST ANTON, AUSTRIA

Classic skiing, classy hotels and arguably the best snow in the Alps — unquestionably the best ski school — puts St Anton at the top of the list of resorts to return to each year. You really do need a guide to find the best powder shots.

☐ *Flexiski's (0171-352 0044) Chalet Stein is the best located luxury chalet, but the Hotel Post is my choice for cost-conscious elegance.*

■ MERIBEL, FRANCE

Tame skiing, but lots of it, is my unrevised verdict, despite an interesting climb up the Gebroulaz glacier for a long descent. Méribel is still the best situated and best priced base for skiing the Trois Vallées.

☐ *Some 40 firms feature Méribel, but Meriski's (01451 844 788) Chalet Mira Belum is so spacious and well kitted-out with creature comforts that I rate it one of the top five in the Alps.*

■ LES ARCS, FRANCE

Ignoring the eyesore accommodation, which does offer great value for money, the scope of skiing in these three resorts beats the Trois Vallées hollow, not for "motorway mileage" — the term for skiing the long, open runs such as those found in the Trois Vallées — but for variety. The lowest resort, Arcs 1600, has terrain that evokes the Dolomites. For serious skiing, try the Grand Col — or steeper "S" couloir — but watch out for a hazard: chamois carcasses.

☐ *As official agent for the resort, Erna Low (0171-584 2841) offers tremendous all-inclusive bargain packages.*

■ WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

It rains, it freezes and prices, like queues, have grown apace with the resort's popularity. Yet Whistler remains the standard by which all North American resorts are rated. I thought I had "done" Whistler until I skied the roller-coaster runs down to Creekside last spring in gallons of soft, wet maritime "powder".

☐ *Some 27 tour operators go to Whistler. I went with Thomson (0990 329329) and stayed at the impeccable Chateau Whistler.*

■ BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO

As the most popular American resort with British skiers, Breckenridge draws heavy fire: it's boring, it's flat. But I found the gladed lower slopes were adored by intermediates. Then I went out on avalanche patrol and could hardly keep up.

☐ *Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201) has luxury chalets and hotels in Breckenridge.*

[illegible]

Answers from page 30

HADLAND

(a) and (b). A variant of headland and a name to sneer at someone who has lost their land. "Few hadlands take pleasure to behold the lands they had." (1600).

JANGLE

(b) Noisy talk or bickering. Used frequently in Middle English to describe anything from a casual argument to a conflict of states.

KELL

(b) A woman's hairnet or cap. A dialect word used mostly in the north, particularly in Scotland.

IMBREX

(c) The Latin word *imbrex* describes a curved roof-tile. The original word in Latin, *imber*, means a rain-shower and indicates the pupose of these tiles. Curved and tightly *interlocking they were designed to drain* away *rain* water from Roman roofs.

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. . . and if you're spoilt for choice, a guide to the top 30 operators — so you won't end up at the last resort

WORLD PICTURES

The Canadian resort of Whistler, in British Columbia, "remains the standard by which all North American resorts are rated". Some 27 tour operators now go to Whistler, including Airtours, Thomson and Ski Independence

Follow the leaders of the pack

Britain's 100 or so tour operators offer the widest choice of resorts and keenest value in the world. An increasing number of Americans, for example, fly to London to begin their alpine holidays.

We quizzed 30 of Britain's best tour operators for this survey: the statistics have been provided by the firms themselves, unless otherwise stated.

The firms listed on these pages are bonded, unless otherwise stated. These have been included because they have provided good services and have built up a loyal clientele. However, unbonded companies offer you no financial protection if they get into trouble, and you should buy your plane ticket from an agent with an ATOL, ABTA or IATA licence.

The prices quoted below are per person per week (unless otherwise stated), ranging from the company's cheapest holidays — typically, a self-drive, self-catering option — to *the most* expensive, including luxury hotels and chalets.

MAINSTREAM OPERATORS

These companies offer the whole range of ski holidays, from self-drive, self-catering breaks to upmarket hotels, chalets and condos.

Crystal (0181-399 5144) travel@crystalholidays.co.uk
Crystal has the most ambitious programme, adding 26 new resorts this year and offering the largest number overall with a total of 135. It claims sales of 112,500 holidays; prices range from £65 to £2,149.

Inghams (0181-780 4444) www.inghams.co.uk/tours/inghams/inghams.htm
Inghams offers 119 resorts in 13 countries and inspires loyalty in its 90,000 clients, who will this year pay between £147 and £1,680. It is adding 50,000 beds and 26 resorts.

Thomson Ski and Snowboarding (0990 329329) www.thomson-holidays.com
Launched in 1973 and once market leader, Thomson threatens a major comeback, with 72 resorts in ten nations. Last year Thomson sold 66,000 skiing holidays. Prices from £139 to £1,059.

First Choice (0990 557755)
Including the Skibound schools programme, First Choice counts 127,000 skiers, more than any other tour operator, though it comes only fourth in terms of the choice of resorts. Prices range from £165 to £505.

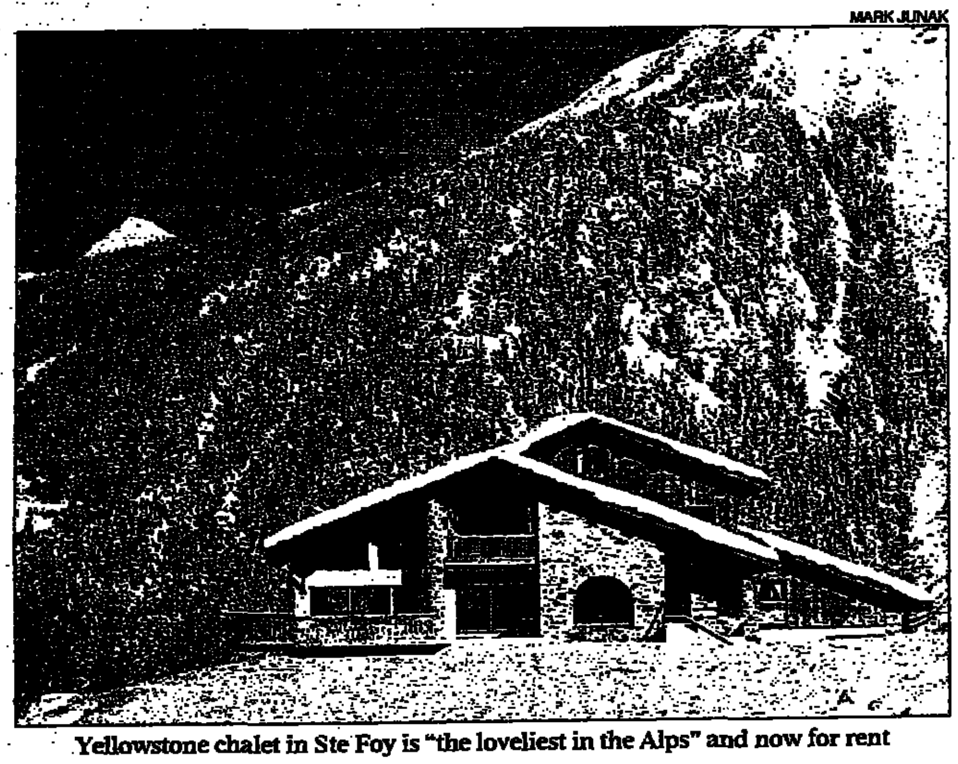
Airtours (01706 260000)
Airtours has been in the ski business for only four years and market analysts estimate sales at around 52,800, with prices from £199 to £899 this season. Airtours pioneered non-stop charter flights to Canada, and this year adds charters to Denver.

Neilson (0990 994444)
Since starting 21 years ago, Neilson has grown to 62 resorts in ten nations and, according to industry analysts, overall sales of 40,000 holidays. Prices from £150 to £1,500.

LUXURY SPECIALISTS — CHAMPAGNE SKIING

The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) baccann-@abercrombiekent.co.uk
In 1989 The Ski Company reinvented the chalet holiday by buying and rebuilding its chalets to high standards, resulting in current sales of 1,250 holidays. Breaks cost from £505 to £1,691.

MARK JUNAK



Yellowstone chalet in Ste Foy is "the loveliest in the Alps" and now for rent

Flexiski (0171-352 0044) www.flexiski.co.uk
Since 1989 Flexiski has led the pack in short-break and corporate holidays in the £350-£2,805 range, and now adds St Anton and Val d'Isère to Courchevel and Verbier for its 1,200 clients.

Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) ski@scottdunn.com
Now 11 years old and with an expanded North American selection, Ski Scott Dunn sells 3,000 holidays (£445-£3,100).

Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) www.powderbyrne.co.uk
Founded in 1985, Powder Byrne now carries some 1,000 skiers on holidays priced between £500 and £2,000, with off piste options.

Simply Ski (0181-742 2541) ski@simply-travel.com
Since 1989 Simply Ski has built up an enviable collection of chalets in its five resorts, attracting 4,000 skiers last year. Prices from £376 to £1,151.

RESORT SPECIALISTS — LOCALISED LEADERS

Ski Peak (01252 794941)
Since 1988 Ski Peak has been the only British tour operator in Vaujany, with a clientele of 1,400 skiers paying between £259 and £656 per week.

Collineige (01276 24262)
Founded in 1980, Collineige is the premier chalet operator in the Chamonix Valley, selling 1,000 holidays in the £409-£989 range.

Meriski (01451 844788)
Since 1983 Meriski has had the best chalet choice and best ski guiding in Méribel, with current holidays priced from £399 to £1,019 for its 2,500 skiers.

YSE (0181-871 5117)
An immensely loyal clientele of 3,500 skiers built up over the past six years in Val d'Isère is promised price cuts of up to 30 per cent this season on a range costing £190 to £975.

NORTH AMERICAN SPECIALISTS

Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201) www.skidream.com
The earliest pioneer, offering North America since 1979 and still the best for service and flexibility there, with 4,300 clients paying between *£459* and £1,895 per week.

Frontier (0181-776 8709) www.frontier-ski.co.uk
Small sales of 700 holidays disguise Frontier's leading position, built up over the past eight years in Canadian cult resorts and adventure skiing, at prices from £579 to £3,000.

Ski Independence (0990 550 555) www.ski-independence.co.uk
In just three years sales have soared to 3,850 holidays, priced from £399 to "no limits" for tailor-made tours.

AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVES

Erna Low (0171-584 2841) www.ernalow.co.uk
One of Britain's oldest tour operators selling 9,500 holidays from £65 to £800, it is the agent for France's biggest self-catering agency.

Snowbizz (01778 341455)
Family values from £219 to £419 now attract some 2,000 skiers to Puy St Vincent, where Snowbizz has been the leading firm for a dozen years.

Motours (01892 518555) www.motours.co.uk
The lowest lead-in price produced in this survey (£32 per person for a week's self-drive, self-catering in Serre Chevalier, France, based on six sharing a flat) explains the appeal of this five-year-old firm for its 3,570 clients, some of whom pay up to £775.

Interski (01623 456333)
Founded *in 1982, Interski* is primarily an all-inclusive schools coach holiday service, with 8,881 clients last year. Prices from £369 to £699.

THE SPECIALISTS' SPECIALISTS — OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Ski Weekend (01367 241636) skiweekend-@online.rednet.co.uk
Ten years old, Ski Weekend sells 2,000 short-break holidays in the £349-£689 range, mostly for intermediates in Chamonix, but it has off-piste adventure programmes.

Ski Esprit (01252 616789)
The children specialist since 1983, it now sells 5,000 family holidays in the £398 to £798 range. Money-back guarantee if you are not happy with its child-minding service.

James Orr Heli-Ski (0171-580 7883)
New last year — and not bonded — this is the only firm in the UK to specialise in a wide range of Canadian helicopter skiing operations. From £1,725-£3,750.

Headwater (01606 48699) www.headwater.com
This cross-country skiing specialist has only 700 skiers *and prices from £239 to £827*, but this eight-year-old firm won't be beaten on price: who else has a DOUBLE your money back guarantee?

SKI AGENCIES — ADVICE FOR THE DEMANDING

Snow Line: (01858 433633) www.snow-line.co.uk
Acknowledged as the largest of the specialist agencies, Snow Line also has a unique 24-hour holiday replacement guarantee should your tour operator go bust.

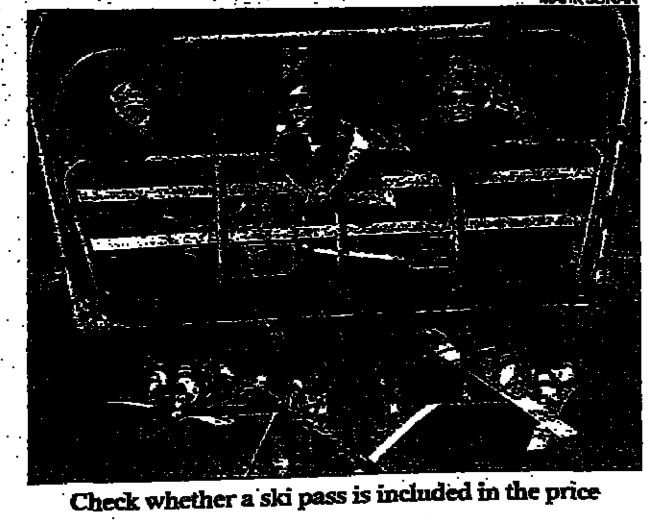
Ski Solutions (0171-4717 700) skihols@skisolutions.com
Highly regarded in the industry, Ski Solutions last year sold 9,000 holidays, mostly to chalets in France.

Alpine Answers (0181-871 4656) alpine-answers@compuserve.com
Six years in business, Alpine Answers is a small firm of consultants with good insider knowledge, aiming to sell 3,750 holidays this winter.

Ski Travel Centre (0141-649 9696) www.ski-travel-centre.co.uk
Scotland's leading ski specialist has detailed knowledge of Alpine and North American slopes.

The Association of Independent Tour Operators (0181-607 9080) offers a ski directory listing 26 specialist operators.

MARK JUNAK



Check whether a ski pass is included in the price

BRICKBATS AND BOUQUETS

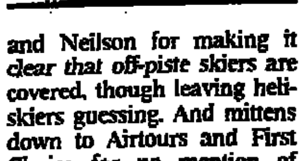
NEGOTIATING the fine print in holiday brochures is more difficult than skiing gracefully in breakable crust. Doug Sager offers a personal view of what's new, what's good and what's bad from the brochures of Britain's top six mainstream tour operators.

■ Mittens up for Thomson: for including independent resort appraisals from the *Which? Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide*, as well as unvarnished clients' reports on each hotel and chalet; an extra wave for being the first with free packed lunches.

■ Mittens down for Crystal: for rating the hard-core, off-piste cult resort of Alagna, in Italy, as a four-star intermediate area, the same rating given to the "intermediate's paradise", Zermatt. In fact, there are at most five red intermediate runs in Alagna, and to get to the "easily accessible" Gressoney runs, skiers must traverse steep, uncontrolled off-piste terrain.

■ Mittens up for Inghams: for following Crystal's breakthrough last year and stating clearly in the brochure that both helicopter and off-piste skiing *are* covered by its insurance.

■ Half a wave to Thomson and Neilson for making it *clear that off-piste* skiers are covered, though leaving heli-skiers guessing. And mittens down to Airtours and First Choice for no mention of either issue, despite brochure promotion of heli-skiing.



■ Gloves down for Crystal, Thomson, Airtours and Inghams — who go to Aspen. They rate the region high for boarding, but neglect to point out that snowboarding is forbidden on Aspen Mountain. Aspen's three snowboard-friendly mountains are a bus ride from the city.

■ Final salutes: to Thomson, for its new money-back, fly-home-within-24-hours guarantee; to Inghams, for its exclusive guarantee to get you out of the airport within 30 minutes, with no more than one stop en route per transfer; to Airtours, for its exclusive flight arrangements allowing families to check in an hour later with advance choice of meals, duty free and group seats next to each other; to Neilson, for its unlimited offer of beer and wine from 4pm to midnight in two Austrian club hotels; and to Crystal, for its new free group pick-up service right to the airport door.

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Where a swell time is had by all

Neither storms nor gales can keep surfers away from Ireland's northwest coast, says **Marianne Curphey**

MIKE SEARLE

International competitor Jake Boex shows off his surfing expertise in Tullan, north of Easky, where storm swells crash on the shore

"If you want to continue surfing, you have to get used to having injuries," Yann the French surfer tells me as he draws deeply on a cigarette.

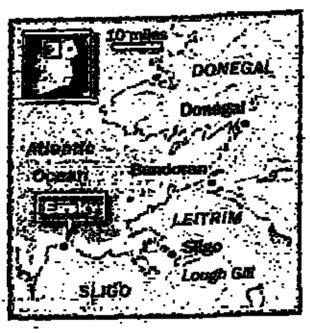
"I had stiches in the top of my head after a board ran over me, and once the tip of a surfboard went through my cheek," he adds.

This is no consolation to me, taking refuge in the pub while nursing cuts, bruises and jellyfish stings after being washed over a reef when the leash of my surfboard broke.

Most of all, my pride is hurt, having had to stumble in front of other surfers over barnacle-covered rocks to retrieve my errant board.

Here at Easky, a small village in County Sligo on the north Atlantic coast of Ireland, surfers take their sport seriously. Storm swells travel thousands of miles to crash on Ireland's rocky shores, throwing up some of the most exciting waves in Europe.

The reefs around Easky and farther north, at the bigger town of Bundoran, are fast becoming popular venues for surfing competitions. But the sea is a capricious playmate. Last month Bundoran hosted the European championships, which attracted competitors from as far afield as Denmark, Israel, Norway, Portugal and the Channel Islands. Tomorrow Easky hosts the Tiki Cold Water Classic.



Three hundred surfers converged on Bundoran for the European championships and woke up on the first day to find ... the ocean flat. High pressure had set in, stilling the waves for several days.

For me, it had been the opposite. Two weeks before the competition, I was in Easky struggling with too much swell.

The first thing you notice about this remote village, with a couple of pubs and a few shops, is that it has a public telephone with a large sign advertising an international collect call service — useful for the Californians, Australians and French travellers who come here in droves.

The second thing is the weather. Never have I encountered so much wind and rain, and in between the storms and gale warnings, so many rainbows. This is a desolate spot, the trees bent and twisted by the prevailing westerlies, the houses crouching low against the skyline.

Easky is now one of the most famous waves in Europe, thanks to *The Storm Rider Guide to Europe*, and the rapturous reviews passed by word of mouth.

"Come and look at these photographs, it's a magical wave," said a Devon surfboard shaper when I told him I was going. "We went at Christmas and there was snow on the ground but the waves were epic."

Miles away in Pembrokeshire, where I surfed in May, surfers develop the same dreamy look when Easky is mentioned. "Look at these," said a teenage surfer fishing out an album from the boot of a battered Fiat. "That was me in March." The water must have been just 8C, but he's got a huge smile on his face.

All this publicity about Easky is worrying the local surfers, many of whom have deserted Easky in search of quieter spots. Locals told me that the place is so popular that 50 vans from all surfing nations are parked above the beach at holiday times.

Yann and his brother were among the many surfers at Easky who had survived for weeks, even months, in camper vans, without running water or electric light. The standard of surfing here is very high. The experts shred and rip waves on the two fast-breaking outside reefs at Easky. I stuck to the smaller, slower-breaking waves in the bay, which peel and break with hypnotic regularity. These waves are unsuitable for complete beginners, since they are steeper and less forgiving than waves at sandy beach-breaks, and surfers have to jump off a rock ledge and negotiate boulders and rip currents to reach them.

For most of the fortnight, the winds were force seven or more, making the beaches unsurfable. But the weather did have one advantage: it is so bad that few tourists venture this far north. Thus in the hills and beaches around Easky, and north to Benbulbin and the Lake Isle of Innisfree, peace still comes dropping slow, just as W.B. Yeats described.

This was Yeats's spiritual home: he is buried in the churchyard at Drumcliff and in between the rain clouds, the region shows off the spectacular beauty that charmed him.

When the sun eventually shines, the scenery is transformed — lush green fields, limestone mountains of breathtaking beauty, and brown bogs stretching for miles. When the wind drops, perfect waves peel left and right, forming and breaking with a consistency I have never seen in England.

Late one evening, as the light began to fail, the incoming tide brought 7ft-high waves marching shorewards. Out of the water for two months through illness, and under doctor's orders to build up exercise gradually, I decided to treat the sea with some respect.

So I watched from the shore as the heads of friends disappeared between the huge sets (big waves that come at intervals). Later, too tired to speak, but with eyes full of pleasure, they stumbled from the ocean. Easky had cast its spell.

If I had a year to surf Easky, I would never be sated. Others evidently feel the same. Like a siren, the wave lures young men from the land, from employment, from responsibilities, from ordinary life.

One surfer had abandoned full-time work in Wales to move to Easky. He surfs as often as he can, while searching for temporary work. An Irishman bobbing about in the waves with me confessed he had abandoned his home town to learn to surf. He was living in a van and intended to stay there until his money ran out.

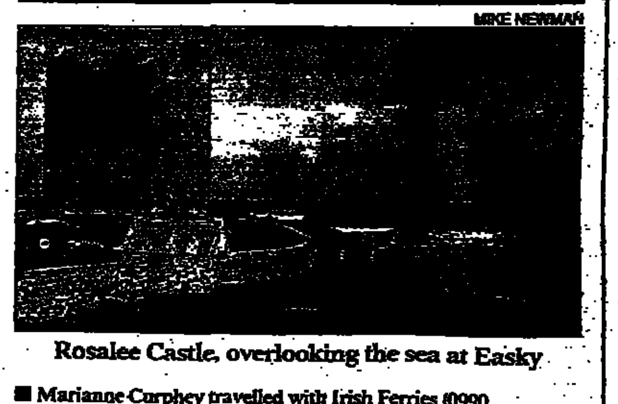
Yeats found his personal peace at Lough Gill, an hour's drive from Sligo. Of the waves lapping on the shores of the Lake Isle of Innisfree, he wrote:

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore:
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

No doubt the weathered young men at Easky who measure time not by hours, but by changing tides and the roar of the waves, would share the sentiment.

SURFING FACT FILE

MIKE NEWMAN



Rosalee Castle, overlooking the sea at Easky

■ Marianne Curphey travelled with Irish Ferries (0990 170000) and the Irish Tourist Board from Holyhead and stayed at Archer's Cottages, near Easky village. The ferry journey from Holyhead to Dublin takes three-and-a-half hours: by car to Easky, three hours.

■ The package costs from £179pp, including cottage and car, or from £132pp person from November 1 to the end of December. Stena Line (0990 707070), Swansea Cork Ferries (01792 456116), Hoverspeed/Isle of Man Steam Packet Company (0345 523523) and P&O Ferries (0990 980980) also operate to Ireland. There is a campsite and hostel in the village, a few B&Bs and a number of self-catering cottages. The Irish Tourist Board has details (0171-493 3201).

■ Surf-trip checklist: There are several surf shops in Bundoran selling essentials, and the Easky surfing and information centre sells wax, leashes and tide tables. Take warm clothes, a woolly hat and extra blankets. The weather is unpredictable and can change from sun to storm within minutes. The sea is around 16C until the end of November, depending on storms. If you plan to surf after this you might need boots, gloves and hood. If you plan to camp on the beach at Easky, take a low tent, which you can pitch behind the sea wall. The green in front of the reef is common land, which means that you can camp or park your van for free.

■ Surf's up: autumn is a surfer's favourite season. The water is warm until the end of next month; tourists have gone home and there is still enough light to surf until you drop. Surfing contests are often held in September and October: tomorrow is the start of the Tiki Cold Water Classic in Ireland. Other scheduled events include the Xcel Pro, at Sunset Beach, Oahu, in Hawaii on October 29, or you could catch the Rip Curl World Cup of Surfing there late next month.
The British Surfing Association (01736 360250) has details of forthcoming events in the UK. The Association of Surf Professionals, based in California (001 714 851 2774), has the same facility for international events.

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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

Tourists shy away from the Asian haze

Holidays are wiped out as pollution takes hold. Report by **Steve Keenan**

A newly-wed couple who cut short their honeymoon in South-East Asia said this week that the polluting haze blanketing the region had emptied tourist resorts.

Advertising manager Shahid Moinuddin and his wife Fiona criss-crossed Malaysia in a vain search for sun. They ended up as the only guests in a sprawling resort on the Malaysian/Thai border, still shrouded in haze.

The distraught couple eventually decided to fly home four days early. "The first blue sky we saw on our honeymoon was back at Heathrow," said Mr Moinuddin.

It emerged this week that dozens of British holidaymakers have also changed plans to visit South-East Asia, as the haze, caused by forest fires, continues to pollute a large swath of the area.

About 20 of 100 customers booked to travel with British Airways Holidays before October 13 have changed their plans, preferring to travel elsewhere or at a later date.

A few have cancelled outright and had their money refunded.

The company — which operates to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Borneo and the three Malaysian resorts of Langkawi, Penang and Pangkor Laut — was expected to review its stance late this week.

In Thailand, heavy thunderstorms reported this week brought hope that the situation might be easing, though the height of the rainy season is not until next month.

"The rain is helping put out the forest fires as well as taking pollutants out of the atmosphere," said a spokesman for the Meteorological Office.

But the rains came too late for the Moinuddins of North London, who married on September 13 and set off on honeymoon two days later.

They paid more than £3,000 for a tailor-made honeymoon booked through a travel agent, flying to Kuala Lumpur, then on to the resorts of Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan in the Malaysian province of Sabah, on the island of Borneo.

"We had to change planes in Kuala Lumpur, and at first sight, we thought the airport was shrouded in fog," said Mr Moinuddin.

They were delayed several hours flying to Borneo and were unable to get to a third resort, Kuching, as flights were cancelled. Instead, the couple decided to spend another £750 flying to Alor Setar near the Thai border.

"We arrived at night and were assured it was clear. We woke up and there was pollution everywhere. We only ventured out of the hotel in Kota Kinabalu once, went to the local museum and came back. Staying in air-conditioned hotels is not the honeymoon of a lifetime."

AFP PHOTO

Hawkers in Indonesia are doing a roaring trade in face masks as a thick smog envelops the area, forcing holidaymakers to postpone plans

PACK YOUR BAGS

LOOKING for a quick getaway? **Joanna Hunter** has tracked down the best of this week's holidays, flights and travel bargains.

☐ Enjoy the last of Portugal's summer sun with Sunworld (0990 550440), which offers seven nights self-catering at the Solgarve Apartments near Vilamoura, flying from Gatwick on Thursday (October 9) for £199 including charter flights and transfers.

☐ The Cheltenham Festival, Europe's biggest literary event, takes places from October 10-19. Michael Palin, Martin Amis, PD James and Rick Stein are among the star speakers. For tickets and information call the box office (01242 227979). Accommodation is available at hotels including the Clarence Court (01242 580411), where a double room with breakfast costs from £67 per night for two: other accommodation details from Cheltenham Tourism (01242 522878).

☐ Is the hippy trail all it used to be? Find out on a 15-night trip to India with Exodus (0181-675 5550), leaving for Rajasthan next Saturday (October 11). The trip visits cities, the desert and the Pushkar Camel Fair and costs £1,175 per person including return flights from Heathrow, internal transport, accommodation and a night on a train.

☐ Step back in time with Holiday Club Pontin's (0990 331199) "Sounds of the Seventies" weekend, October 10-13, at Wall Park, Devon. Old timers Alvin Stardust, Showaddywaddy and Andy Scott's Sweet will be strutting their stuff. Prices start at £39 per person based on four sharing an apartment.

☐ If you don't mind taking pot luck with your accommodation, you can spend a week on Ibiza with First Choice (0161-742 2228) for £129 per person. A self-catering apartment for two will be allocated on arrival.. Fly from Gatwick on Wednesday (October 8).

☐ Fly to Cancun in Mexico with Kuoni (01306 742888) on Friday (October 10) from £633 per person, including flights from Gatwick via Sanford in Orlando, transfers and seven nights room-only accommodation at the Holiday Inn Centro.

☐ For sun, sea and scuba diving, fly to the Dominican Republic from Manchester with Cosmos (0161-480 5799) on Wednesday (October 8). Fourteen nights accommodation at the Tropiclub Almendros in Sosua on the north coast cost £499, which includes food, drinks, entertainment, some watersports, flights and transfers.

● *All prices are per person, based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.*

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

A yen to visit Japan

A FEW years ago, when the yen was at its strongest, I managed to lose several pounds in weight on a week's trip to Tokyo.

The reason for such a rapid weight loss in so short a time was simple: I found everything so incredibly expensive that I could hardly to afford to buy a McDonald's, let alone a bowl of noodles.

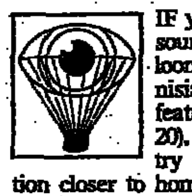
How I would have appreciated reading a copy of *Japan for the Budget Traveller*, a free booklet available on request from the Japanese National Tourist Organisation (0171-734 9638).

It lists economical restaurants serving a variety of different cuisines, hotel rooms for under £35 a night, rail passes, walking tours, markets and duty-free shops to help travellers see the country without bankrupting themselves.

Following the decline of the yen (£1=Y191), you can now expect to pay about 84p for a subway ticket in central Tokyo or Osaka, £69 for a one-way journey on the bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto, £150 for a seven-day unlimited Japan Rail Pass, £13 for a room in a youth hostel, £24 in a Japanese inn or guest house, £13 for a three-course dinner in a cheap restaurant, £3.40 buys a bowl of noodles, and a Big Mac is about £1.50. When I was last there, I had to pay four or five times more.

Maybe it's time to go back?

I spy London



IF you like the sound of ballooning in Tunisia (see our feature, page 20), but want to try the sensation closer to home, you can soar 400ft above London in the world's largest helium passenger balloon. The Great Balloon Experience (0345 023842), based in Spring Gardens near Vauxhall Bridge, has a fixed balloon which carries 30 passengers at a time. The 15-minute rides take place daily from 10am until dusk but are subject to the weather which the operator, SuperSky Trips, expects to be suitable for about two-thirds of the time. The ride costs £12 for adults, £7.50 for children.

■ **A TWO-NIGHT self-drive break in Paris for £39 per person is on offer from Leisure Direction (0181-324 3030) between November 1 and March 31. The price, based on four people travelling together, includes accommodation in a three-star hotel and cross-Channel fares for car and passengers. For the same price you can have a one-night B&B break (also with ferry fares) in a four-star hotel in Bruges, Brussels or Amsterdam.**

Off the rails

AN epic 9,000-mile train journey from London to Beijing is offered by Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) through much of Europe, Russia, Mongolia and the Gobi Desert. Described as a "rail-cruise", with stops at destinations along the way, the 20-day trip departs on June 3. The first leg is by first-class Eurostar to Brussels, continuing to Cologne, where you board the high-speed German ICE train to Berlin. A Russian train then carries you to Moscow, where there are wheelset changes at the Belorussian border to cope with the wider Russian gauge.

After two days exploring the Russian capital, you leave on the Trans-Siberian on the world's longest continuous track to Irkutsk, Ulan Bator and Beijing, with overnight stays in all three. There are ten nights in hotels and nine on the train, where standards vary from superb (ICE) to "functional" on the Trans-Siberian. The price of £2,450 covers rail travel, accommodation, excursions, most meals and return flight from Beijing to Heathrow.

Smugglers' rest

TEST out your smuggler-spotting talents at the Customs and Excise National Museum on Liverpool's Albert Dock. Search for goods hidden in secret hiding places, see if you can pick out fake designer goods from the genuine articles, and identify suspicious travellers and parcels. Various ingenious attempts at getting through "Anything to Declare" include a fountain pen that fires chilli powder and shoes with false soles to conceal drugs.

The museum is part of the Merseyside Maritime Museum, which includes the Titanic and Lusitania Exhibition, the Battle of the Atlantic Exhibition and the Transatlantic Slave Gallery. Admission, giving 12 months' unlimited access to the Maritime Museum, is £3 — bargain of the week. Family passes costing £7.50 allow access for two adults and up to three children. Further details: 0151-478 4499.

DAVID PEARSON

Refuelling stop: a bowl of noodles in Tokyo costs about £3.40 at today's currency rates

Icelandic pubs

DURING November and December there is an organised pub crawl round Reykjavik's nightspots on a weekend break organised by Icelandair (0171-388 5599). The evening costs £49 and includes dinner at the Einar Bar restaurant of steam-smoked guillemot with blueberry vinaigrette, or mustard-fried red fish, followed by a traditional Iceland pudding. Revellers are taken to the Salon Islandus bar, then to Kaffibrennslan, which has the biggest assortment of beers in the country, before heading for Gaukur B Steng, Reykjavik's oldest pub, and finally hitting the Kaffi Reykjavik, one of the most popular pubs with live music.

Ominously, the price does not include return transport back to your hotel or the cost of drinks: a pint of beer is £5, a bottle of wine £18 and Iceland's own spirit, Brennivin, is £2 a tot. The three-night B&B break, £380 from Glasgow, £440 from Heathrow, also includes an Icelandic Christmas buffet and a chance to see the Northern Lights.

■ **CRICKET fans can follow England's progress against the West Indies in the one-day internationals in Barbados on March 29 and April 1. Calypso Gold (0181-977 9655) has two-week packages for £1,353 which include tickets to both games, flights, hotel accommodation, transport to the ground and the chance to meet Sir Garfield Sobers and other cricketing heroes.**

Volunteer work

THE environmental travel company discoveryinitiatives (0171-229 9881) is looking for paying volunteers to participate in conservation projects in Swaziland. One of the world's smallest countries — and one of Africa's last remaining kingdoms — Swaziland is tucked between South Africa and Mozambique but has never been part of either.

Volunteers will help local and international conservation organisations, big game parks and Tusk Force to record flora and fauna, map out wildlife areas and identify threats to their sustainability. They will operate in three different parks: the Mlilwane Sanctuary, which is mainly open grassland with the densest wildlife population in the kingdom, Hlane Royal National Park, where lions have recently been successfully reintroduced, and Mkhaya, the Refuge for Endangered Species, which is home to both black and white rhino, buffalo, elephant and many of the antelope family.

An important part of the project is to work with local agricultural and pastoral communities who have asked for support in turning their land back to nature so it can be included within the parks. Two 12-day trips depart October 31 and November 28 and cost £2,450 including flights, food and accommodation — this is in tents, in simple lodges and "under the stars".

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 10-12

Creating the Creation, Haydn's Oratorio; Introduction to the personal computer; What's that bird? an introduction to birdwatching; In quest of King Arthur: At Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). From £142 residential or £98 non-residential.

Mountain navigation skills: Learn to use map and compass in the Welsh mountains: From the National Mountaineering Centre, Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig (01690 720280). Price, including equipment, tuition and full-board accommodation, £130.

***The life and work of Vincent* Van Gogh; Aromatherapy and reflexology:** At Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price per course, £92.

Tranquil Lakeland; Autumn woods of Cumbria; Photographing Lakeland in the autumn; Introduction to the geology of the Lake District: At Blencathra Field Studies Centre, Keswick, Cumbria (017687 79601). From £71-£98 per course.

Heritage Wessex Tours: From the White Hart Hotel, Andover, Hants (01264 352266). Visits to Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, Winchester and Wilton House. Price, including half-board accommodation, transport and entrance fees, £195 for two nights.

Caving, climbing, hang-gliding, mountain navigation courses: Based at Edale in the Peak District. From YHA Adventure Trails (01727 845047). Prices for two nights start at £93 per person; hang-gliding from £163.

Learning to use mountain navigation skills in Wales

The price of fish; the history of Britain's deep-sea fishermen: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Late, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). From £117, full board.

Improve your watercolours; Bats and other small mammals; lichens: At the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Colchester (01206 298283). From £79 to £102, inclusive.

Ancient warfare, part one, Greek warfare; The harpsichord and its world; English manorial records: At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, (01954 210636). Price per course £117, inclusive of accommodation.

Drawing from the model, Matisse; Everyone can sing: At Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Price per course, £70-£75.

OCTOBER 17-19

Antiques weekend: At the Worsley Arms Hotel, Hovingham in Yorkshire (01653 628234). Accommodation, all activities and tutored wine tastings from £199.

Cider and winetasting weekend on the Welsh Border: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price, inclusive of accommodation and tastings, £195.

Marine and Coastal Landscapes; The Jacobite challenge: At the Belstead House College, Ipswich (01473 686321). Prices per course from £75-£95, inclusive.

Picture framing; Machine knitting: At Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 5172). From £98 inclusive.

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The arrangement commences with a Monarch Airlines Boeing 757 flight from London Gatwick to Harare, Zimbabwe, and onward flight to Victoria Falls. A limited number of places are available and since the demand is anticipated to be high, it is essential that early telephone reservations are made to avoid disappointment.

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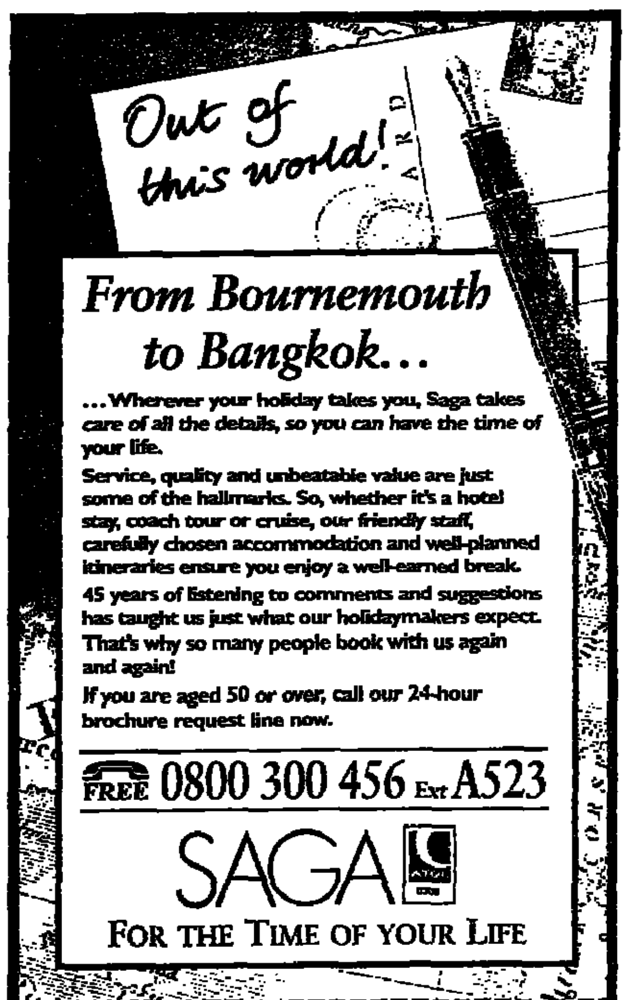

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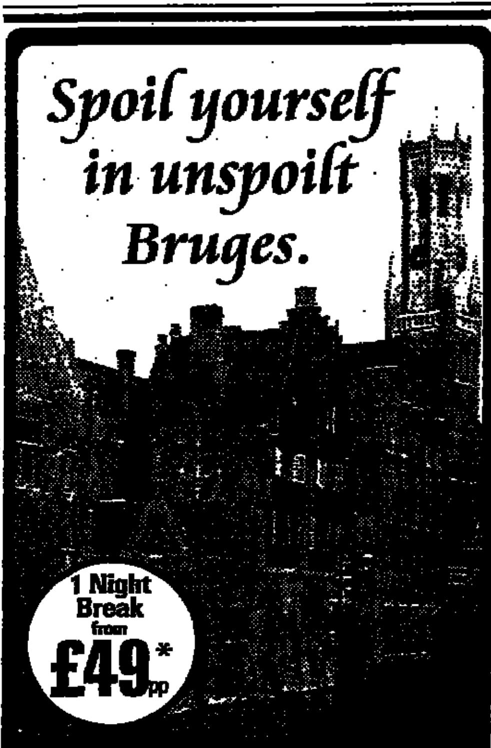

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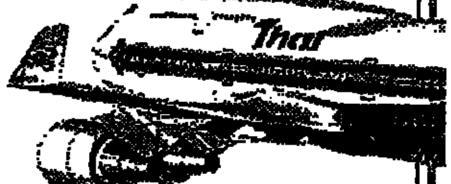

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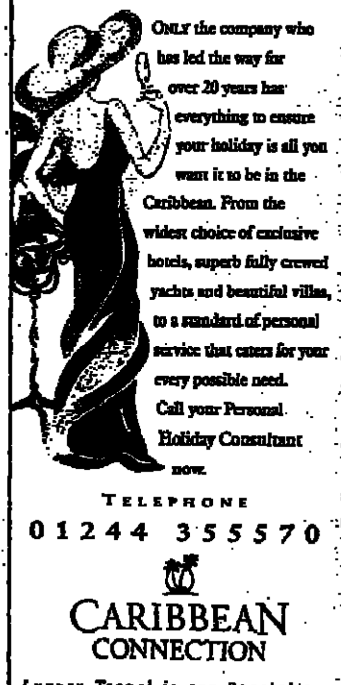

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Monty Python would approve

Although winemaking in Britain is still a hobby for many, the vineyards are definitely worth a visit, says **Martin Symington**

Vigneron Peter Johnson and I surveyed the rows of vines which swept down the valley from Llanvihangel-Y-Llewern in the Welsh borders. They looked like tresses of neatly combed hair. Then, sheltering on a terrace from the evening drizzle, we swirled, sniffed and gurgled a variety of red and white vintages, including an "Offa's Red" cabernet sauvignon-merlot blend. "The classic bordeaux combination," explained my host.

I could not help recalling Monty Python's hilarious "Australian Wine" sketch, in which a particular antipodean brew was proudly claimed to have been "compared favourably with a Welsh claret". Belonging in the 1970s, before cabernet sauvignons and chardonnays from Down Under took the wine world by storm, the joke now seems very dated.

However, wine-growing in Wales was a new idea to me. OK, the "claret" I would politely describe as a brave effort, but Offa's white Bacchus Faber had a crisp, limey taste that I would happily drink again. I was pleased to hear — as reported in *The Times* last weekend — that some English and Welsh winemakers are predicting that this year will be one of the best-ever vintages, after a summer of almost perfect conditions.

Offa's Vineyard is in an unlikely setting. Five miles along twisting lanes from Monmouth, most of the visitors are hikers on the Offa's Dyke long-distance footpath, which passes immediately below. "I suppose I'm a commercial wine grower in that I sell the stuff and try to cover costs," explained Mr Johnson, an Englishman. "But basically, it is a hobby. When I retired from business ten years ago, I felt I needed a fresh challenge. I do all the work myself, from pruning, to flogging the stuff to local shops and restaurants. When punters drop in, I show them round and then pop a couple of corks for them. They usually put a couple of bottles in their rucksacks."

With just two-and-a-half acres "under the vine", Mr Johnson is fairly typical of wine growers in England and Wales. Southern Britain is on the fringe of the latitude within which the vine will grow, but yields are a fraction of what can be expected in, say, southern France. Subtle flavours and balanced fruit and acidity are hard to coax out of sun-deprived grapes. So most British wine-growing is a hobby, a sideline, a challenge, a passion. And a labour of love.

However, vineyards are burgeoning in number — there are now 413, according to the United Kingdom Vineyards Association. Nevertheless, those open to the public are relatively few and far between, so my idea of tasting my way along a "wine route", as you might in the Rhône Valley, for example, did not really work. Instead, in my day's touring which ended at Offa's, I fitted in just three.

The first was Tiltridge, near Upton upon Severn in Worcestershire. Here are the glorious, sheep-cropped Malvern hills where Elgar found his inspiration. Today, however, the hills were lost in a misery of mist as I sat with Peter and Sandy Barker around their farmhouse kitchen table and watched the rain pouring down on their acre and a half of German grape varieties — Huxelrebe, Seyval and Schonburger. "We do need a bit of moisture before we start picking," said Sandy, optimistically. Peter began to explain, eyes shining with enthusiasm: "We really shouldn't see English wine as quirky. I mean, the Romans used to grow vines here, and this went on right up to medieval times, when many vineyards belonged to the priories. Then came the Reformation and lots of them were grubbed up. Also at this time, England acquired Aquitaine, so good wine began to flow in from Bordeaux."

We braved the elements and clomped round the muddy vineyards, tasting the sweet Huxelrebe and spicy, blush-coloured Schonburger grapes as we went. Back in the house, it was time to let Elgar brighten up the day. His mustachioed countenance looks out from the label of bottles such as the rather delicious, light and slightly peppery Elgar Dry 96, and the Barkers' award-winning Elgar Sparkling 1994 (Brut).

The Barkers also run a B&B and Peter works part-time as a civil engineer, although they hope the vineyard will become a more important part of their business. So they are converting a barn into a visitor centre where food and gifts will be sold, and Elgar no doubt will be tasted with a little more pomp and circumstance.

Blending in a bit of raw tourism, I was discovering, is clearly the way to make an English vineyard pay. The point is demonstrated at The Big One, aka Three Choirs, near Newent, half an hour's drive away.

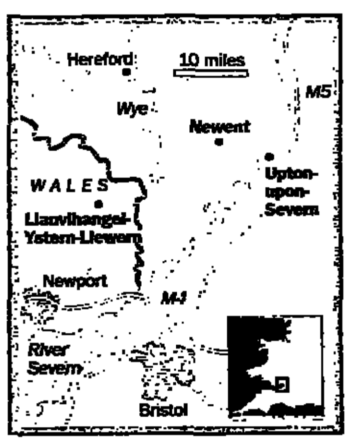
MARTIN SYMINGTON

"We shouldn't see English wines as quirky," says Peter Barker at Tiltridge. "The Romans grew vines here"

Seventy acres of vineyard rippling over the undulating Gloucestershire countryside make it Britain's second-largest vineyard. A long drive cuts through the vines to the car park, shop, exhibition centre, restaurant and winery.

I headed first for the winery, where hoppers of grapes were tipped into the press by means of a forklift truck. Martin Fowke, the winemaker, trained in Cirencester and Australia, said: "We make a quarter of a million bottles of Three Choirs here each year. And we make the wine for 30 other vineyards, as well as our own." The wines are pumped into steel tanks that are labelled immediately, like babies in a maternity hospital, to avoid muddling them up.

The mile-and-a-half long vineyard walk, punctuated with explanatory boards, topped up my appetite for lunch in the Three Choirs restaurant. The whites on the wine list were all home-made, but not, alas, the reds. Exquisitely cooked meat dishes clearly demand something more reliable, such as the Australian "guest wine" Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon which was on offer. How it compares with a Welsh claret is left to the diners' judgment.



WINE FACT BOX

- The harvest continues for the next month or so. This month, picking may be taking place at any vineyard, and the Three Choirs will be making wine.
- Three Choirs Vineyard, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1LS (01531 890223) opens daily: January-March 11am-4pm; April-December 10.30am-5pm. It costs £2.50 for a self-guided tour, £3 with a booklet. The restaurant is open at lunchtimes, plus Friday and Saturday evenings from 7pm. Expect to pay about £15-£20 per person for a three-course meal, excluding drink.
- Tiltridge Vineyard, Upper Hook Road, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire WR8 0SA (01684 592906). Generally open Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm, and Sunday 12-5pm, but best to phone first in winter. No entry charge.
- Offa's Vineyard, Old Rectory, Llanvihangel-Y-Llewern, Monmouth, Wales NP5 4HL (01600 780241). Ring before visiting. No charge.
- The United Kingdom Vineyards Association, Church Road, Bruisyard, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2EF (01728 638080; e-mail 106236.463@compuserve.com) can supply lists of UK vineyards and visiting arrangements. Please send an SAE.

WINE ONLINE

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THE "WHERE DO I START?" SITE:
http://www.ukonline.co.uk/UKOnline/Regional/contents.html to find out if there are vineyards in your region. **http://www.wine-web.com/** showcases international wines (but not English!) and has links to other wine-related sites.

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THE TIMES

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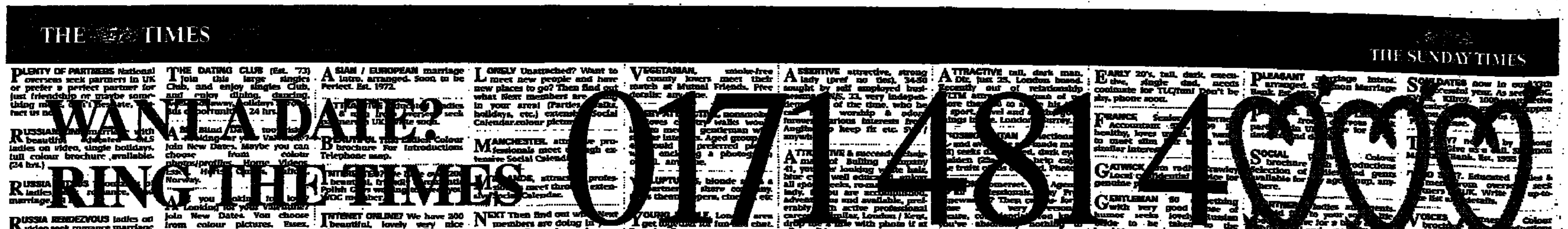
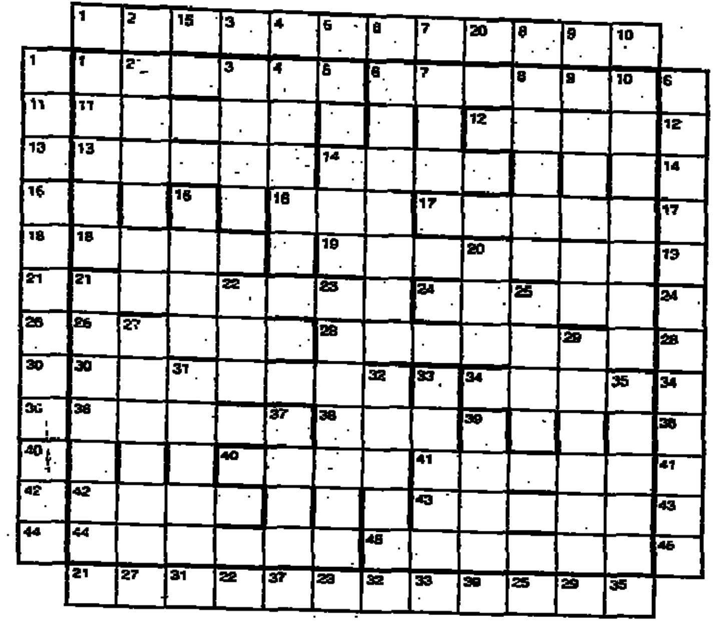


هكذا من الإصل

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3430: A Catalogue by Apex



CORRECT LETTERS: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3430, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, October 16.

W
WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 160-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

ELEVEN members of a group have been specially selected for "A Catalogue". After making a donation, each has been given equal treament and a definition with one letter misprinted. They will be found surrounding the completed diagram clockwise from top left.

The misprinted definitions are:
Talk off. Sir. Hose. Bunch. Thee. Blade. Wanion. Oaf. Powder. Salvage. Item.

Solvers should write the corresponding correct letters and the member's donations, in order, on the lines beneath the diagram.

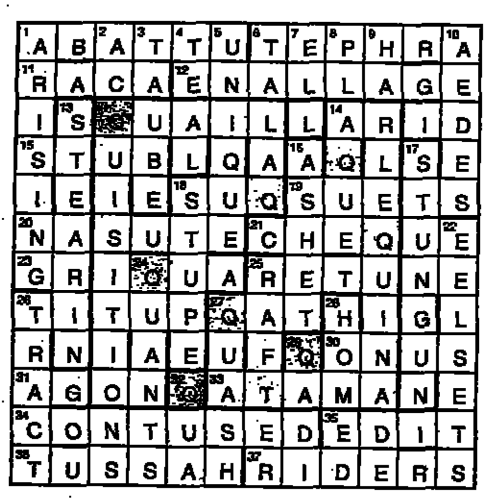
Clues are presented in symmetrical pairs; the two clues in each pair stand side by side without overlapping and either may appear first. One letter is to be omitted from the answer to each clue and entered in its numbered square outside the diagram. Definitions refer to the full words; subsidiary indications to the form entered in the diagram. The Chambers Dictionary (1993) is recommended.

ACROSS

1, 45	Domed building, nearly spherical, to occur to old goddess (7;7)
6, 44	Scots burn volume held by senior celebrities — English government objects (7;7)
11, 43	Roman province — one entering wood to tie up stalk (6;6)
12, 42	Everyone initially taken in by extra stain put in fancy tins (5;5)
13, 41	Mountain range — skiing's opening blunder — a fragile number in plaster? (6;6)
14, 40	Policeman, an imaginary creature to despise, runs in descendant (5;5)
16, 38	Expression of delight — the squeal emitted is husky (4;4)
17, 36	To pick up University language results — still second (6;6)
18, 34	A rep abroad, not required to criticize jargon (5;5)
19, 30	Developer — one who teaches greedy baby to stop having a ball? (8;8)
21, 28	Familiar play — a shrew runs amok — fondles plants (8;8)
24, 26	Tight-fitting breeches to stir a Rural Dean's primitive passion (6;6)

DOWN

1, 35	Means coppers no longer miss the mark on a day assignment (6;6)
2, 29	Excellent English stall disguising old fur — on turning up, Scots complain (7;7)
3, 39	Grass, one in the wrong, to broadcast about standard unit of currency (5;5)
4, 33	Driver holding newspaper up — look — in more trouble — clamped again? (6;6)
5, 32	A monicker one hundred and one Scots want Prune to change (6;6)
6, 23	Perhaps, an Orcadian scandal — young gulls fighting crows over island (8;8)
7, 37	Healthy couples climbing carry a bill of fare (5;5)
8, 31	Provost, with little time to move people, left to calm tenant (6;6)
9, 27	Swindle involving wine, plundering of old plants upsetting government? Yes and No (7;7)
10, 21	Fire about to engulf one, vigilant Scottish rescuer unfortunately retrieves no more (8;8)
15, 25	Eccentric gypsy in Edinburgh University to decline treatment (5;5)
20, 22	Veteran learns about very large synagogue in Solihull (4;4)



SOLUTION AND NOTES TO No 3427: FRIENDLY FIRE by LEO

THE preamble required solvers "to shade as many of these letters (Qs) as possible so that they *mutually*" are non-attcking queens. Hence the eight Qs shaded being unaffected by the Q in the UNIQUE which is not of the set.

The winner is: L.C. Payman of Great Ayton, Middlesbrough.
The runners-up are: Stephen Smith, Kelvedon, Colchester; D.J. Young, Orton Waterville, Peterborough; John Brown, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire; Frank Boot, Loughborough, Leicestershire; P.R.E. Ruff, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE BEST book of the year so far is *Opening Leads for Acol Players* by Mike Lawrence and Ron Klinger (Master Bridge, £9.99), although the latter part of the title is curious and indeed counter-productive. I suppose it is a cheap attempt by the publishers to persuade the Acolytes that the book is designed for them. In fact there is nothing specific to any system in the book — it's about opening leads in a game called Contract Bridge. No doubt the edition in Klinger's home country, Australia, will be called *Opening Leads for Admirers of Don Bradman*. That should boost sales.

The authors go through all the factors that come into the choice of the opening lead — inferences from the opponents' bidding, deductions from your partner's bids or lack thereof, which suit to choose when you have dubious holdings etc.

This is the opening quote from the chapter on the subject of trump leads: "When in doubt lead a trump." Right? No, wrong, oh so wrong. Much better is: "When in doubt, go back and think some more".

Now try these leads. You are West and this is the auction:

S	W	N	E
-	-	1 D	Pass
1 S	Pass	3 S	Pass
4 S	All Pass		

You to lead from each of these hands (rubber bridge):

1) ♠87♥Q753♦952♣A1074
2) ♠94♥KQ7♦9763♣Q974
3) ♠A3♥J8432♦97♣KJ63
4) ♠753♥Q73♦QJ107♣Q73

Hand 1: time and again you will see players leading trumps from this type of hand. But as the authors point out, your spades and diamonds suggest they will have enough tricks if you do not score yours quickly. As between hearts and clubs, choose hearts because you should as far as possible avoid underleading aces against suit contracts. This is a possible deal:

♠AKJ4
♥AJ
♦Q10873
♣96

♠87
♥Q753
♦952
♣A1074

N
W E
S

♠63
♥K964
♦KJ4
♣Q832

♠Q10952
♥1082
♦A6
♣KJ5

On a spade lead, declarer wins and immediately starts diamonds. One ruff establishes the suit, and he is on a club guess to determine whether he mades ten or eleven tricks. After a heart lead, the club guess is required to make the contract:

On hand 2) lead the king of hearts — again, an attacking lead.

On hand 3), attack once more; the three of clubs is the lead. It is more attractive to lead from a king-jack than from a jack — you need less from your partner to set up tricks. In addition, holding five cards is a reason for not leading a heart — if the declaring side has the ace you are unlikely to set up more than one trick, whereas when you lead from a four-card suit you may set up two tricks.

Finally, on hand 4, because West has the diamonds well stopped, the authors do consider a trump a possible lead. Even so, a more attacking lead might work out better.

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the puzzles found on page 30

Question 1:
229. The differences between progressive pairs of numbers is 15, 30, 60 and so 120 is added to 109 to give the final number.

Question 2:
Sydney, Paris, Madrid, Tokyo and Athens are all capital cities.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THIS week I conclude my coverage of the UK Chess Challenge for British schoolchildren. To achieve success in adult tournaments, it is imperative to start early. As the organisers state: "Chess gives children intellectual capital such as transferable skills, concentration, focus, discipline and responsibility. Chess also encourages them to learn to think for themselves, all key attributes for success in examinations and commercial life."

The game which follows is by the runner-up, 12-year-old Nicholas Timms of Somerset, who also emerged as the overall victor of the Under-12 section.

White: Richard Jones; Black: Nicholas Timms
Played at the Mind Sports Olympiad, Festival Hall, August 1997
Caro-Kann Defence

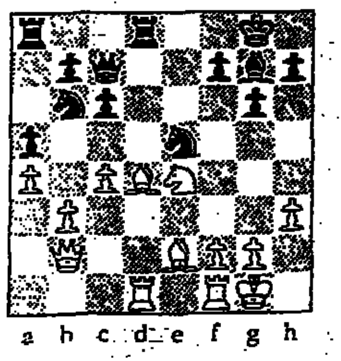
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6

Black challenges White to enter one of the doubled pawn variations with 5 Nxf6+ and now either 5 ... gxf6 or 5 ... exf6. However, White chooses an insipid reply.

5 Ng3 g6 6 Nf3 Bg4
7 Be2 Bg7 8 0-0 0-0
9 h3 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 Nbd7
11 c4 Nb6 12 b3 e6
13 Bb2 Qc7 14 Qc2 Nfd7
15 a4 a5 16 Rad1 e5

Black takes the struggle to the enemy with this central advance.

17 Ne4 exd4 18 Bxd4 Ne5
19 Be2 Rfd8 20 Qb2



This is incautious. It is better to retreat the bishop from d4.

20 ... Rxd4! 21 Rxd4 Nexc4

The simple 21 ... c5 might be even better, for example, 22 Rd2 Nf3+.

22 Bxc4 c5 23 Nxc5 Qxc5
24 Rfd1 Re8

Black demonstrates good tactical awareness. There is no hurry to recapture the pinned rook, so he positions his own rook more actively.

25 Qd2 Bxd4 26 Qxd4 Re1+
27 Kh2

Naturally, White cannot capture the rook as he would then lose the queen at d4.

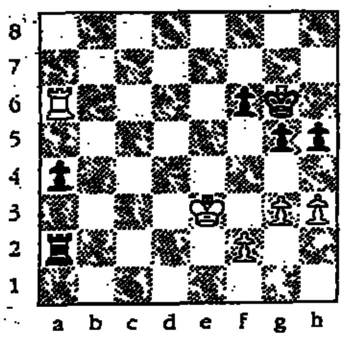
27 ... Qc7+ 28 Qd6 Qxd6+
29 Rxd6 Nxc4 30 bxc4

A mass of pieces have been exchanged in the last few moves, leaving material level. White is a tempo down in the defence of his queenside pawns.

31 ... Ra1 31 Rb6 Rxa4
32 Rxb7 Rxc4 33 Ra7 Ra4

Black is now a passed pawn ahead. In subsequent moves he makes steady progress.

34 Kg3 Kg7 35 Ra6 g5
36 Kf3 f6 37 Ke2 Kg6
38 g3 h5 39 Ke3 Ra3+
40 Ke2 Ra2+ 41 Ke3 a4



42 h4

This generates further possibilities for Black on the kingside.

42 ... g4 43 Ra5 Ra1
44 Ke2 a3

Black's most promising plan is to advance his pawns to a2 and then to f4. This will force White to capture this pawn and Black can invade with his king on f5.

45 Ra6 Kf7 46 Kd2

White would do better to make rook moves. This allows Black to exchange his queenside pawn for one on the kingside after which the game becomes hopeless for White.

46 ... Ke7 47 Kc3 a2
48 Kb2 Rf1 49 Kxa2 Rxf2+
50 Kb1 Rf3 51 Ra5
White resigns

WINNING MOVE

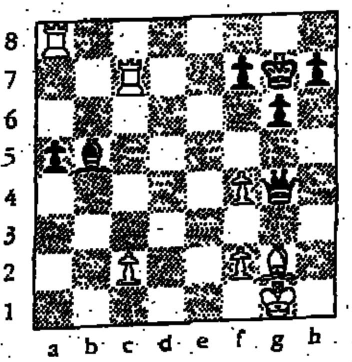
By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is a variation from the game Deseatnicov - Wortel, Tallinn 1997.

It looks as if a long struggle between the white rooks and the black queen is in prospect. However, Black's next move ends the game. Can you spot it?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxc6+
Last week's winner: R F Pallett, Slough, Berkshire.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

World-famous No 10: Now you can visit the Web site of our Prime Minister's official residence

THE LAST private resident of 10 Downing Street was a Mr Chicken, although little is known about him other than his fabulous surname. There are plenty of similarly intriguing curios to be discovered at the Web site of the British Prime Minister's official residence, at http:/ /number-10.gov.uk/

The unpretentious front of No 10 is deceptive; it is in fact two houses joined back to back. The one facing Downing Street is a late 17th-century house refronted the following century, then enlarged in the 20th century. The three-storey stately house at the rear, facing Horse Guards Parade, was owned by the Crown but leased to the former Hanoverian ambassador to the Court of Queen Anne.

When he died in 1720 the house was reclaimed by the Crown, linked to 10 Downing Street by a corridor and eventually established as the Prime Minister's residence from 1735.

Virtual visitors to No 10 today are greeted with an intriguing message: "As a consequence of the General Election some sections have been removed temporarily from this site." The largely text-driven tour of the building takes visitors through the front door into the entrance hall, ground floor and staircase, then to the Cabinet Room, garden, three state drawing rooms on the second floor and the lavish dining rooms.

Keeping pictures and illustrations to a minimum means that the concise pages are updated quickly and a pleasure to explore. The brief history of the house reveals that it stands on an ancient site where "traces of Roman and Saxon buildings have been found". Downing Street was built in 1684 and named after its developer, the speculator George Downing. He "returned from America during the English Civil War and became Cromwell's Scoutmaster (or Chief of Intelligence)".

You will also find potted biographies of prime ministers past and present, and no visit is complete without signing the electronic visitors' book, where you can see a Press Association picture of No 10's best known "occasional visitor", Humphrey the cat.

A reminder that Cyberspace Thirty-Six offers three readers the chance to win Kodak DC25 digital cameras worth £200 each. The compact camera has a built-in automatic flash, self-timer and small colour LCD monitor for instantly reviewing pictures. It stores up to 29 images and more with slot-in memory cards.

Each DC25 comes with flexible software titles for transferring images to your computer as well as enhancing and printing the results. Although a picture is said to be worth ten thousand words, for this competition it should be exactly 100.

To enter, vividly describe in 100 words your favourite photograph. It can be a family snap or a well-known work but you must bring it to life by description alone. The competition is open to all ages. Send your entry, together with your name, age, address and home telephone number to Cyberspace Thirty-Six, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also e-mail entries, clearly marked for Cyberspace Thirty-Six, at cyber@dircon.co.uk. The competition closes on October 14, normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

NEW SOFTWARE

THE RICH world of *National Geographic* magazine comes to life on the 30 CD-Rom archive **The Complete National Geographic**. The puzzle is working out just who might buy it.

National Geographic built its reputation on gloriously reproduced photographs and well researched features, bringing alive the remotest reaches of the world. The collection features every edition — 1,200-plus — of the monthly magazine since its launch more than 100 years ago. Lurking within these pages are some 7,500 articles accompanied by maps, graphics and glossy pictures.

It is not possible to flick through the electronic editions with the same satisfaction as turning pages of the printed version. Instead, the best way to tuck in is with the extensive search engine.

But perhaps the archive is just too faithful to the magazine. Some 190,000 printed pages have been scanned into the database, including every irrelevant advertisement that ever appeared. Despite being billed as "classic period advertising", they are of no real interest and actually hold up access to the mighty archive. It would have been much smarter to edit out the ads and, with the space saved, released the collection on fewer discs.

The collection, released by Mindscape, is available on dual format discs for Windows 95 and Mac.

● **Verdict: 6 out of 10. Extensive if lazy *National Geographic* magazine archive. £199.99 for 30 discs.**

AT LAST a real-time war sim stylish enough to compete with **Command & Conquer**. Activision's strategy title **Dark Reign: The Future of War** is a sci-fi caper where interplanetary civil war is waged across jungles, volcanoes, urban moons and ice plains.

National Geographic CD-Rom

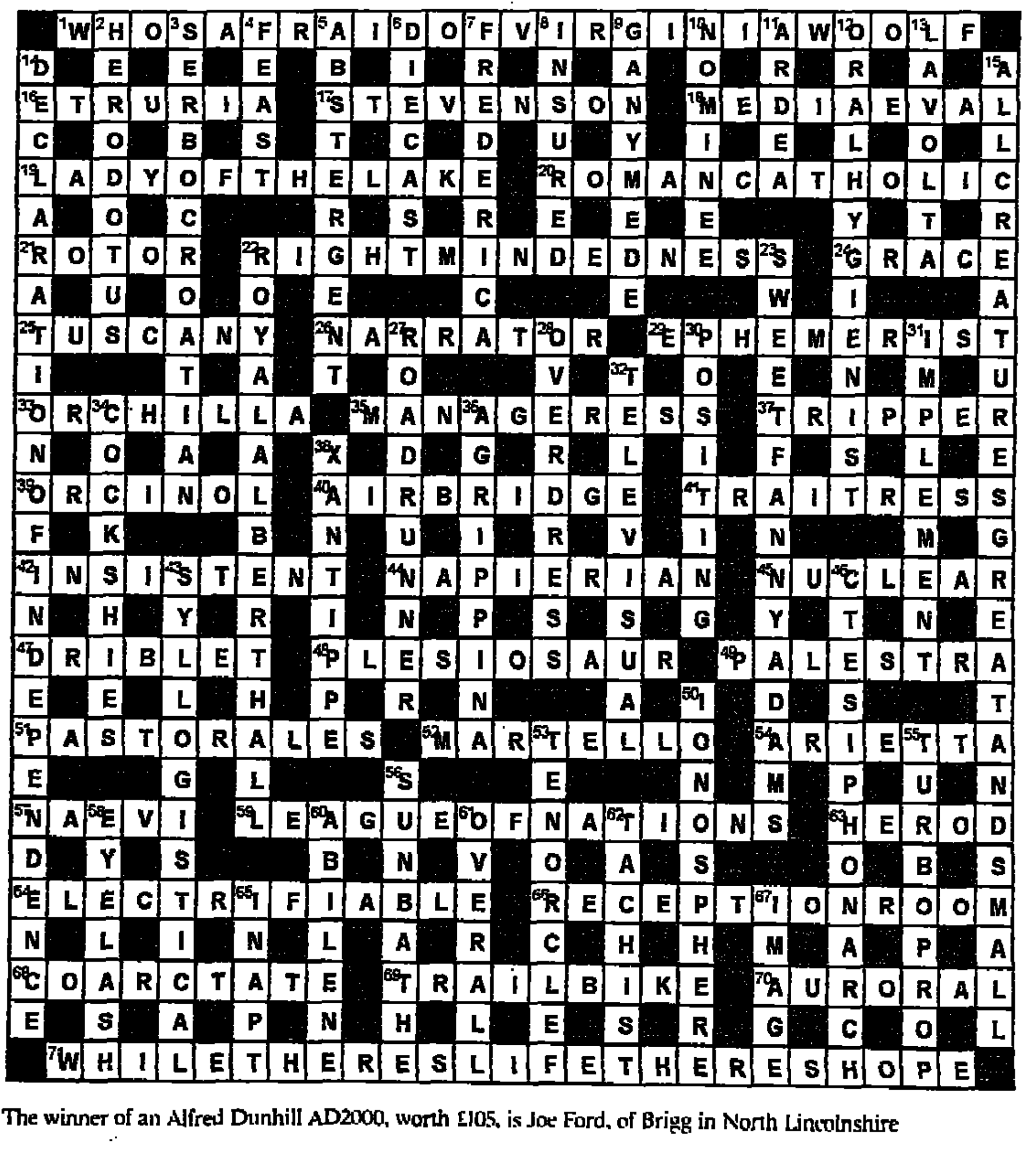
As a rule of thumb, the Imperial Force tends to be hostile and the Freedom Guard defensive in the 30 missions played out over 15 or so highly detailed worlds. Whichever side you command, new features add extra dimension to tactics. Military units can take advantage of peaks and troughs in the landscape, for example, with visibility improving at the top of hills. Some units can also lurk in bushes without automatically being detected by approaching foes.

The 34 combat units ensure variety, with some trained in stealth like the Snatchers, who can cross enemy lines to kill soldiers as they sleep. While there are no air or sea units to back you up on missions, zippy hovercrafts speed troops to and from danger zones.

The mission construction kit allows you to set your own goals and the title accommodates network gameplay with up to eight others or one-to-one by modem.

● **Verdict: 7 out of 10. Explosive and engaging strategy war sim. £34.99.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 128



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, is Joe Ford, of Brigg in North Lincolnshire

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Q **When buying a godchild a Christmas present, is it necessary to buy their siblings one too? If not, would it be advisable to give the godchild money, so that their siblings need not watch them open a parcel? I do not want to disappoint another child/children, but buying a present for all the brothers and sisters or several godchildren can be expensive.**
B. Haymes, Coventry.

A It is unnecessary to buy presents for their siblings, who presumably have their own godparents to do the seasonal honours. The only exception to this is if a godparent is actually staying with the family over the festive season, when small token presents are appropriate. Money as a gift lacks imagination and should be avoided until the child is much older.

Q **Is it acceptable to embrace close male friends by kissing them on both cheeks? I am an actor and many of my colleagues do this. I think it shows affection and it seems applicable and acceptable in so many countries. My father, however, is driven into a fury by it.**
David Causton, London W6.

A *Social kissing* between men has long been the custom in gay circles and more liberal métiers such as your own. Recently, however, it is finding favour in a wider society. For instance, a heterosexual host may kiss a gay guest on arrival and departure. This said, in most social circumstances it remains inadvisable, as a young man who inadvertently kissed a high-ranking Army officer at an official garden party learnt to his cost.

Q **Please advise me on the correct modern way to address a letter and the envelope. I now receive letters with the envelope addressed "*Gus Plaut*". Should it not be addressed "Dr G.S. Plaut" or "GS Plaut Esq. FRCS"? The text often starts "Dear Gus Plaut", but I think it should be "Dear Dr Plaut" or "Dear Gus". Every now and again I receive an official letter from a lady I have never met signed "Wendy Jones". How do I *reply? Many* ladies object to being addressed as "Ms Jones".**
Dr G.S. Plaut, Halstead, Essex.

A You are quite correct about addressing letters and envelopes correctly. Envelopes to men are still properly addressed as "John Smith Esq". "Mr John Smith" is gradually becoming acceptable, but still lacks style. "*John Smith*" alone is *neither* correct nor stylish. How to open a letter is governed simply by how well you know the correspondent. Thus a man you have never met is "Dear Mr Smith", and a friend "Dear John". "Dear John Smith" is inappropriate to all instances. When replying to official letters from women who have not specified a prefix, there is no option but to use the grim appellation of "Ms".

Q **I hear that William Hague and Ffion Jenkins will share a bedroom at this year's Conservative Party Conference. Is this not a bad example for him to be setting?**
Mrs J. Griffin, Cheltenham

A I actually think Mr Hague is setting rather a good example, which is not being hypocritical. Unmarried couples openly sleeping together is so commonplace today that it is almost bad manners to draw attention to the fact.

Q **Please explain the difference between a funeral and a memorial service.**
Helen Richie, Aberdeenshire.

A Quite frankly, the deceased. He or she invariably attends the former, but is always indisposed for the latter. More seriously, a funeral commemorates a death, while a memorial service celebrates a life.

Q **As a woman who enjoys parties of all kinds, it never ceases to amaze me how seldom a host or hostess introduces me to the other guests. Arriving at a party knowing no one else can be daunting, and not all women feel at ease when introducing themselves to others. I understood that it is the job of a good host to affect introductions and to work out beforehand which guests might be interested in talking to one another.**
Sarah Swift, London SW1

A The modern female guest has to be much more pro-active than her predecessor. On arrival she should walk straight up to the host/hostess, firstly to announce her presence, but more importantly to encourage him/her to introduce her to whoever he/she is currently talking to. If this fails the guest can simply ask "who do you think I should meet?" Should this not work, then it is no longer bad form to walk over to an appealing individual or a group and say, "Hello, I'm Sarah Swift."

Q **When is it acceptable to tell someone there is something about their appearance that they would find embarrassing, such as having spinach on their teeth, their flies open or, as I witnessed at a party, a woman with her skirt tucked in her knickers?**
G.W., Cirencester.

A Always.

● *John Morgan is author of* Debrett's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners *and associate editor of* GQ. *Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners,* The Times Weekend, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*

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TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HADLAND
- a. A loser of land
- b. A projecting land mass
- c. A breed of sheep

JANGLE
- a. A television advertisement
- b. Noisy talk
- c. Jewellery

KELL
- a. Forest green
- b. A hairnet
- c. Seaweed

IMBREX
- a. Boat of the dead in Hades
- b. A computer format
- c. A curved tile

Answers on page 22

TWO BRAINS

"The development of a superior memory is fundamental to raising intelligence, heightening creativity and problem solving, and involves combining interest, imagery, systems and persistence. The fact is that we can all improve memory for the rest of our lives." — *South China Morning Post*, September 14, 1997.

Question 1:
What is the missing number?

4 19 49 109 ?

Question 2:
Which is the odd one out?

Spair, Ddraim, Koyot, Yesnyd, Shetna

Answers on page 29.

RAYMOND KEENE

CROSSWORDS

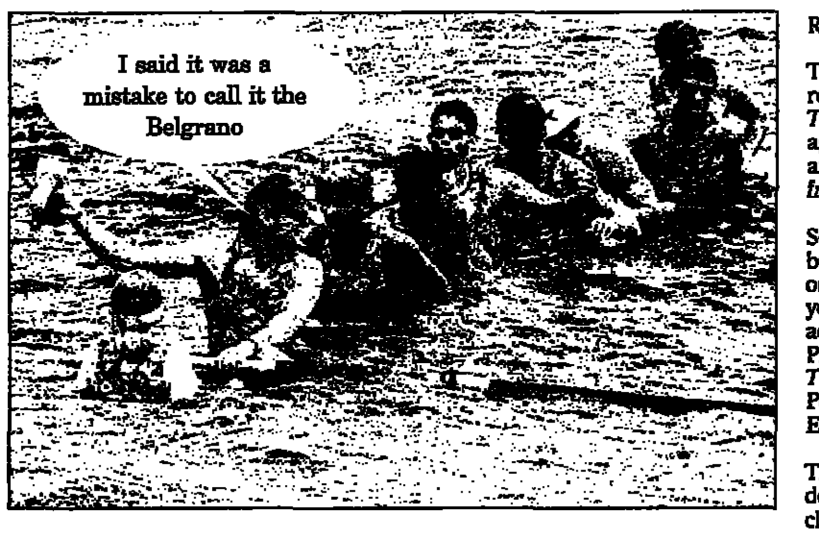
by Brian Greer

To err is human; despite rumours to the contrary, crossword editors are human... completion of the syllogism is left as an exercise for the reader. When crosswords converge on me from the compiling team, I edit them and type them into a computer. After checking, I send them electronically to Wapping, and at the same time copies go to a friend who solves and checks them. Before they appear, they are faxed to me for final checking. So, all responsibility for errors lies with me. Typographical errors are hard to avoid and notoriously difficult to pick up when proof-reading, so the occasional "dedider" for "decider" gets through. More serious are spelling errors. I have been roasted for "barbeque" and for failing to vet "Heriot" as the author's name. Conversely, there is a story, the provenance of which I am unaware, that the ingenious clue for SPELLING "embarassing sort of mistake" was ruined by a conscientious subeditor who restored the second "r". When an error of fact occurs (Otago is not a city and Lagos is no longer the capital of Nigeria), readers are happy to point it out. I welcome such correction and respond in the style of Dr Johnson, who, when asked by a lady why he defined "pastern" as the "knee" of a horse, replied "Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance".

A rather different case is when the everyday and specialised meanings of words differ. A master brewer informed us that porter is not ale (though *Collins Dictionary* defines it as "a dark sweet ale brewed from black malt"). He explained that ale is either pale or brown beer, whereas porter and stout are black beers. Your crosswords editor has to cope with errors in reference books, more numerous than might be suspected. The prize for the most spectacular error must surely go to the "Wicked Bible" of 1631, which omitted "not" in "Thou shalt not commit adultery".

● *Brian Greer is Crossword Editor of* The Times

PICTURE LINE


I said it was a mistake to call it the Belgrano

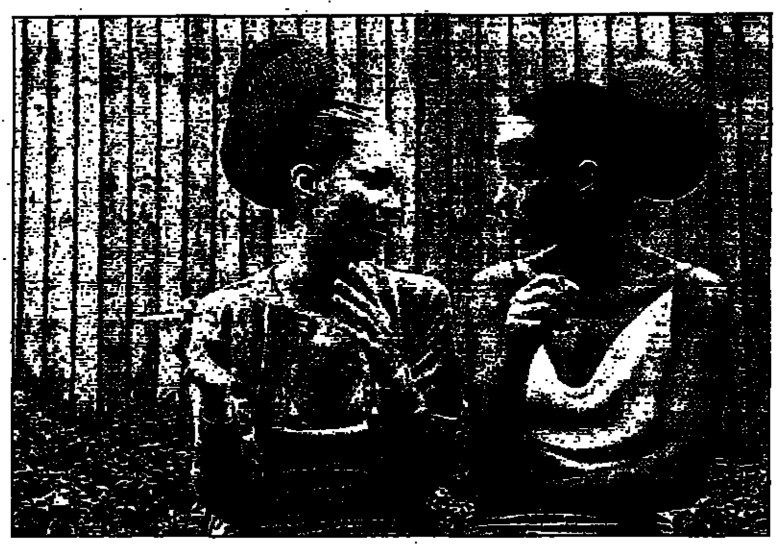
The winning caption for last week's picture competition was submitted by Gordon Lane, of Castel in Guernsey

READERS are invited to suggest what the people in the picture below are saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen *from those submitted*.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

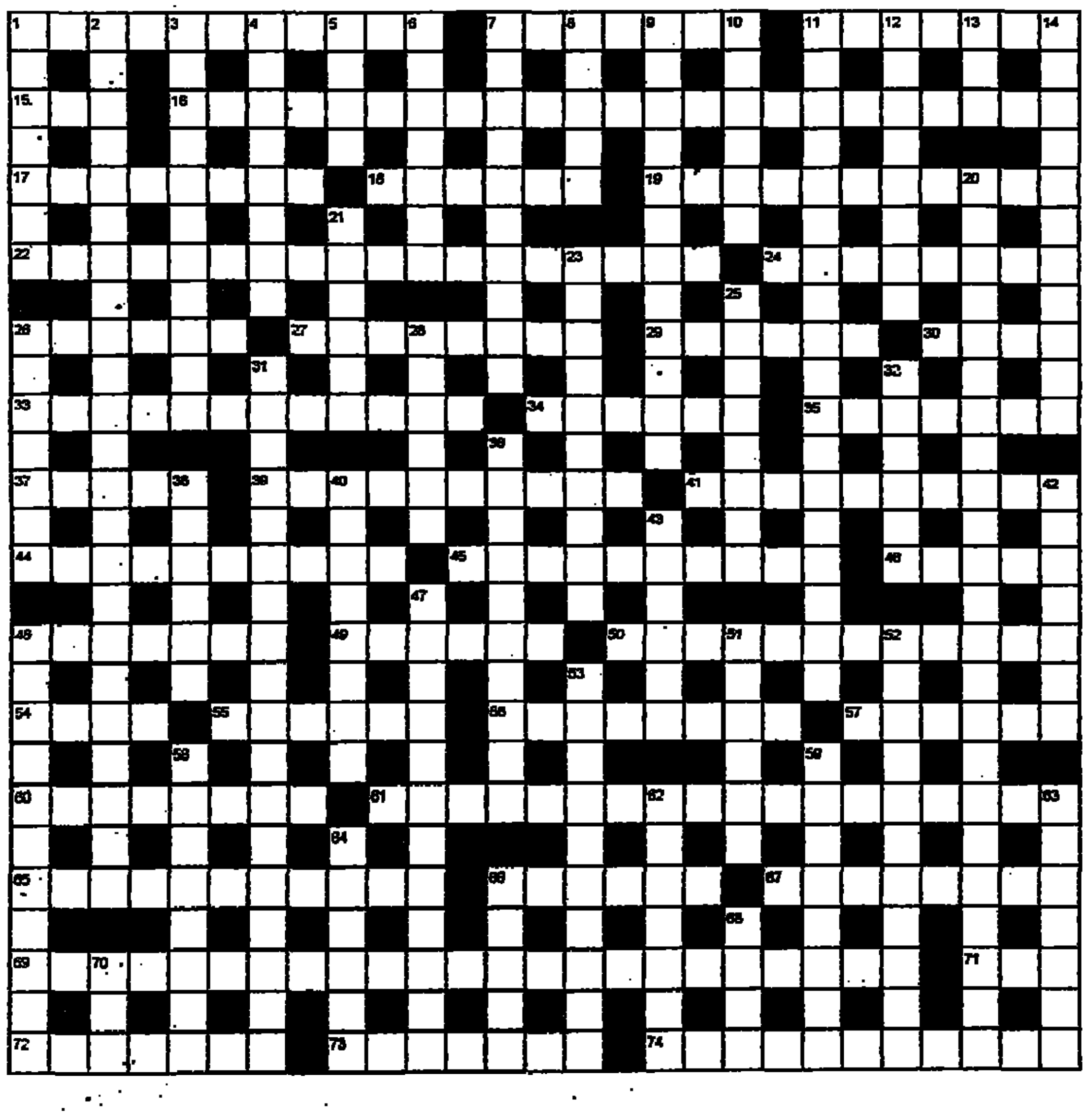
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, October 8.



JUMBO CROSSWORD 130

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 130, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by *Monday October 13. The name of the winner will be published* in Weekend on Saturday, October 20



NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
.... POSTCODE ....

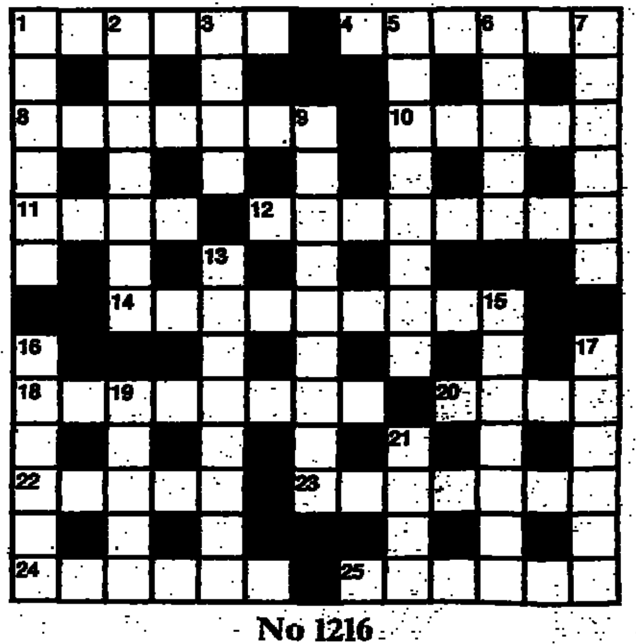
ACROSS

1 *Has chintz custom-made by* American plant (11)
7 Accountant initially came in to demonstrate profitable part of business (4,3)
11 I may be briefly restrained by Tom and Harry (7)
15 Bristle, being thrown out on one's ear (3)
16 Storm-damaged tanker may do this to maintain stability (4,3,2,8,6)
17 I draw a lot of those cartoons with minor differences (8)
18 Right-wing way to turn round decaying state (3,3)
19 Some of the green stuff needed to promote growth? (11)
22 It's set up to reduce the danger of strike action (9,9)
24 Second slice woman put on the scales (8)
26 Weak man on board is responsible for mass production (6)
27 One of the locals who contribute to the WI? (8)
29 Suggestive of French street that borders one square (6)
30 Some sort of unusual soya product (4)
33 Subjected to painful reduction in profit? (12)
34 Woman's intent on returning in Shakespearean role (6)
35 Deadlock created by mischief-maker, with mostly fools in tow (7)
37 Oddly stern German artist (5)
39 Enliven term at Oxford — not quite covered by dodgy exeat! (10)
41 Sycophantic old boy starting serious query wanted to oust a king (10)
44 Concerning the environment, English firm's reasonable (10)
45 Grim-sounding relations offered to entertain the kids? (5,5)
46 Finally unsafe, caught in aircraft? Do it! (5)
48 Tease about time taken to identify part of skeleton (7)
49 Notice general's come in tired (6)
50 I never cook with batter — like the prawns? (12)
54 Island where youngster must be accompanied by adult (4)
55 Almost leaving when harassed — that's pardonable (6)
56 Freezing support for such artistic endeavours? (3,5)
57 Ambition I have to make some salad (6)
60 What must be found in ocean, finally, before it's put back in maps! (8)
61 Some heat generated when BT takes on union's leader, needing to expand (7,7,4)
65 See me tackling vexed question with university philosopher, French (11)
66 On the surface, it's a bit like the Circle Line (6)
67 Love to have cheap wine first, eating Indian veg — with this? (8)
69 Given some stick, double lighting facilities and work too hard (4,3,6,2,4,4)
71 Some current political group, not Conservative ... (3)
72 ... but incorporating right in part of manifesto? (7)
73 Departs with small fish — not at first feeling resentment (7)
74 Union's expert, given good grounding, achieving certain goals? (5-6)

DOWN

1 Finally decide about ordinance set up in Embankment (3,4)
2 It was a wonder they could be cultivated (7,7,2,7)
3 Flies up, after embarrassing reminder? (3,8)
4 Dilapidated ruin once associated with cells (8)
5 Half laughing? Appropriate to do it when dancing (4)
6 New Orleans, or somewhere in Italy? (7)
7 Deny agreement I'd held up (10)
8 Fish in river, having had quarrel about it (5)
9 Masses of devotees belong to it (6,2,4)
10 Lord gets crafty about getting out of control (6)
11 Chair-supplier established about a century ago? (8,10)
12 Sources of raw material, developing plastic with unknown ingredient (4-4)
13 What Hendrix played is cut (3)
14 Sups ale, getting drunk, and seized by terrible anger (11)
20 States area where conservation involves some hot issues? (11,8,4)
21 Dismayed by experiences in a sporty car (6)
23 Do tricks, etc? Deviously kept guessing! (10)
25 Insult BA on the fiddle in European port (8)
26 When this is imposed, few will credit what the press may do (7)
28 Ran about aged 40? Rugby put me in that position (6)
31 DJ may turn up to provide introductions for this young offender (8,10)
32 Trim a conifer (6)
36 At this stage in court proceedings, one may capitalise on an advantage (5,5)
38 48*across* contains this article on *Times* — originally "The Thunderer" (6)
40 One side of the coin — understanding leader's responsibility (8)
42 Drunk at this point, whatever *you* may think! (2,5)
43 South African residents half-neglected some poetry (6)
47 As 22 should be, with good training (4-8)
48 Flooded out with chances for new employment (11)
51 Avoid being second in the market to make cuts (6)
52 Happy to interrupt pests, greeting Asian republican (11)
53 Part of London where the Oval is — south, not north (10)
58 Taking some chances, Tories may show old character (8)
59 I became worried about new surroundings (8)
62 Heading for Dorset town, put up for a part in 56, perhaps ... (3-4)
63 ... actor has soldier's role in audition (7)
64 Someone highly skilled with a chamois (6)
66 Sailors on Eastern railway interchange (5)
68 Stop talking about problems (4)
70 Legendary winger coming in to score on the rebound (3)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1216

ACROSS

1 Shack; sailor song (6)
4 Promise faithfully (6)
8 Kettledrums (7)
10 Direct, lead (5)
11 Fierce monster (4)
12 To which the ostracised sent (8)
14 One unpersuadable; Ox ford its home (*Arnold*) (4,5)
18 Impediment (8)
20 Long walk; 19 price rise (4)
22 *Grecian Urn* poet (5)
23 Minister's salary (7)
24 Edging cord; very (hot) (6)
25 Serious, awesome (6)

DOWN

1 TV comedy series (*abbr.*) (6)
2 Fleet commander (7)
3 Greyhound stall; trick (4)
5 Of wood (8)
6 Meaning; travel without purpose (5)
7 — Waugh, *Brideshead* au thor (6)
9 (Triangle) with two sides equal (9)
13 (Political) murderer (8)
15 *Power to hurt with glance* (4,3)
16 Raise eyes; check (refer ence) (4,2)
17 Sinew (6)
19 Acute; (card) trickster (5)
21 Missile, grain store (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1215

ACROSS: 1 Magna Carta 8 Railing 9 Abhor 10 Hash 11 Feasible 13 Broth 14 Potty 16 Hoodwink 17 Term 20 Vague 21 Burgess 22 Undefended

DOWN: 1 March 2 Gainsborough 3 Axis 4 Argued 5 Transept 6 The bitter end 7 Greedy 12 Chow mein 13 Behave 15 Unable 18 Mused 19 Urge

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